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# Count Down

## Florida's bitter recount battle lurches toward deadline

Bins filled with ballots are stacked at the Broward County Supervisor of Elections office as employees count ballots during a recount, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018, in Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

By **GARY FINEOUT and KELLI KENNEDY**

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)

— With time running out, Florida's election recount drama lurches forward

Wednesday amid a maelstrom of courtroom arguments, broken machines, allegations of irregularities and President Donald Trump's ongoing criticism. Many counties have

wrapped up their machine recount ahead of a Thursday deadline to complete reviews of the U.S. Senate and governor races, but larger Democratic strongholds are still racing to meet

the deadline. Republican Gov. Rick Scott agreed to step down from the state panel responsible for certifying the final results.

Scott is locked in a tight

race with U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and has already suggested fraud may be taking place in some counties.

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# Justice legal opinion backs Whitaker's naming as acting AG

By **ERIC TUCKER**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Justice Department on Wednesday released an internal legal opinion supporting the legality of Matthew Whitaker's appointment as acting attorney general as Democrats press the case that President Donald Trump violated the law and Constitution by making Whitaker the country's chief law enforcement officer.

The 20-page opinion from the Office of Legal Counsel, which provides advice to executive branch agencies, aims to rebut mounting complaints that Trump illegally sidestepped procedure by appointing Whitaker over Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. Rosenstein, the second-ranking Justice Department official, has been confirmed by the Senate and had been overseeing special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. Whitaker had been chief of staff to now-ousted Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a job that didn't require Senate confirmation. He became acting attorney general when Sessions was forced out on Nov. 7 and was given oversight of Mueller's inquiry.

Since then, the state of Maryland has challenged Whitaker's appointment,



**Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, center, greets state and local law enforcement officials at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Iowa, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018, in Des Moines, Iowa.**

arguing that the top Justice Department job must be held by a Senate-confirmed official such as Rosenstein. A defense lawyer in Las Vegas is arguing a drug case involving his client should be halted if Whitaker was improperly appointed.

Congressional Democrats, meanwhile, have called the appointment unconstitutional and demanded that Whitaker recuse himself from overseeing the Mueller investigation. At least two former Republican attorneys general, Alberto Gonzales and Michael Mukasey, have also raised questions about it,

and a handful of GOP senators are urging their leadership to hold a vote on legislation that would protect Mueller.

It was unclear whether the legal opinion would satisfy opponents of Whitaker's appointment, but the document does provide by far the most detailed defense from the Justice Department of a selection that has roiled Washington. The opinion concludes that Whitaker, even without Senate confirmation, may serve in an acting capacity because he has been at the department for more than a year at a "sufficiently senior pay level."

The opinion tries to reconcile two seemingly conflicting statutes by saying that even though the department's own line of succession specifies that the deputy attorney general may hold the top spot in the event of a vacancy, a more general law known as the Vacancies Reform Act empowers presidents to depart from that order and to promote officials who haven't been confirmed by the Senate.

Although Whitaker is not Senate confirmed and was not the deputy, the opinion concludes that he nonetheless satisfies a third element of the law by hav-

ing been with the Justice Department for at least 90 days and earning high enough pay for consideration.

"As all three branches of government have long recognized, the President may designate an acting official to perform the duties of a vacant principal office, including a Cabinet office, even when the acting official has not been confirmed by the Senate," the opinion said.

The opinion identified more than 160 times before 1860 in which non-Senate officials were temporarily appointed to fill vacancies as Cabinet secretaries or equivalent jobs, including some with no prior experience in federal government.

It said that both Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama had designated unconfirmed agency officials as acting agency heads and that Whitaker was not the first unconfirmed official to run an agency on an interim basis in the Trump administration.

Even so, the opinion could identify only one instance, in 1866, when a non-Senate confirmed assistant attorney general became acting attorney general. The Justice Department was not established as its own agency until 1870. □

# U.S. panel warns against government purchase of Chinese tech

By **MATTHEW PENNINGTON**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A congressional advisory panel says the purchase of internet-linked devices manufactured in China leaves the United States vulnerable to security breaches that could put critical infrastructure at risk. In its annual report on Wednesday, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission warns of dangers to the U.S. government and private sector from a reliance on global supply chains linked to China, which is the world's largest manufacturer of



**In this Sept. 16, 2018, photo, American flags are displayed together with Chinese flags on top of a trishaw in Beijing.**

information technology in the high-tech industry by 2025 already is a sore point with Washington and a

contributing factor in trade tensions that have seen the world's two largest economies slap billions of dollars in punitive tariffs on each other's products this year. The U.S. also has had long-running concerns about state-backed cyber theft of corporate secrets, something that China agreed to stop in 2015.

But the bipartisan commission highlights the potential security risks to the United States by China's preeminence in the so-called internet of things, or IoT, which refers to the proliferation of physical devices that have sensors that col-

lect and share data and connect to the internet.

Such devices could be everything from household appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners to warehouse delivery systems, smart traffic signs and aerial drones.

"The scale of Chinese state support for the IoT, the close supply chain integration between the United States and China, and China's role as an economic and military competitor to the United States creates enormous economic, security, supply chain, and data privacy risks for the United States," the report says. □



# Florida's bitter recount battle lurches toward deadline

**Continued from Front**

Critics have said Scott should have no role in overseeing the election given his close contest.

Trump, who has already lashed out over the recount, added to the growing partisan firestorm by arguing without evidence that some people unlawfully participated in the election by dressing in disguise. "When people get in line that have absolutely no right to vote and they go around in circles," Trump said in an interview with The Daily Caller published Wednesday. "Sometimes they go to their car, put on a different hat, put on a different shirt, come in and vote again."

The state elections department and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, both run by Republican appointees, have said they haven't seen any evidence of voter fraud of this sort.

Adding to the fray, however, a top attorney at the Florida Department of State sent a letter last week asking federal prosecutors to investigate whether Democrats distributed false information that could have resulted in voters having mail-in ballots disqualified. Four county supervisors turned over information that showed Democratic Party operatives changed official forms to say that voters had until two days after the election to fix any problems with mail-in ballot signatures. Under current law, a voter has until the day before Election Day to fix a problem.

Meanwhile, problems continue to arise in Palm Beach County, where tallying machines have overheated. That's caused mismatched results with the recount of 174,000 early voting ballots, forcing workers to go back and redo their work with no time to spare.

"The machines are old," said Supervisor of Elections Susan Bucher, who said they underwent maintenance right before the election. "I don't think they

were designed to work 24/7 — kind of like running an old car from here to L.A. And so, you know, things happen to them."

Right now, Palm Beach County looks like it could miss the Thursday deadline, even though Nelson and Democrats filed lawsuits seeking to suspend it.

Lawyers for Democrats also asked a federal judge Wednesday to set aside the state law mandating that mailed-in votes be thrown out if the signature on the envelope doesn't match the signature on file. No less than six federal lawsuits have been filed so far in Tallahassee. Nelson's campaign has also filed a lawsuit seeking public records from a north Florida elections supervisor who allowed voters in GOP-heavy Bay County to email their ballots in apparent violation of state law.

U.S. District Judge Mark Walker, citing a well-known "Star Trek" episode, said during a hearing Wednesday that "I feel a little bit like Captain Kirk in the episode with the Tribbles where they start to multiply."

The developments are fueling frustrations among Democrats and Republicans as the recount unfolds more than a week after Election Day. Democrats have urged state officials to do whatever it takes to make sure every vote is counted. Republicans, including Trump, have argued without evidence that voter fraud threatens to steal races from the GOP. The Republican candidates for governor and Senate, Ron DeSantis and Scott, hold the narrowest of leads over their Democratic counterparts, Andrew Gillum and Bill Nelson.

Scott was in Washington, D.C., while the court battles rage on. He stood at Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's left shoulder Wednesday when the Kentucky Republican welcomed GOP senators who will take their seats in January when the new Congress is sworn in.

During the brief photo-op



Political observers, foreground, watch as employees at the Broward County Supervisor of Elections office count ballots during a recount, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018, in Lauderhill, Fla.

Associated Press

in McConnell's Capitol office, Scott did not reply to a question about whether he contends there was fraud in the election.

State law requires a machine recount in races where the margin is less than 0.5 percentage points. In the Senate race, Scott's

lead over Nelson was 0.14 percentage points. In the governor's contest, unofficial results showed DeSantis ahead of Gillum by 0.41 percentage points.

Once the machine recount is complete, a hand recount will be ordered in any race where the differ-

ence is 0.25 percentage points or less, meaning it could take even longer to complete the review of the Senate race if the difference remains narrow.

If the Senate race does go to a hand recount, the deadline for counties to finish is Sunday. □

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## Trump backs 1st major rewrite of sentencing laws in decades

By **ZEKE MILLER, LISA MAS-CARO and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced his support for the first major rewrite of the nation's criminal justice sentencing laws in a generation, but it remains to be seen whether the proposal can pass Congress.

"Today I'm thrilled to announce my support for this bipartisan bill that will make our communities safer and give former inmates a second chance at life after they have served their time," Trump said at the White House. Trump hailed the deal as proof that "true bipartisanship is possible" — though no Democrats attended the announcement.

Senators reached an agreement this week on bipartisan legislation that would boost rehabilitation efforts for federal prisoners and give judges more discretion when sentencing nonviolent offenders, particularly for drug offenses. The House approved a prison reform bill in May, but the proposed Senate package makes additional changes and adds the sentencing component. That means the House would need to revote on anything the Senate passes.

Criminal justice reform has been a priority of Trump's son-in-law, White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, who has been working on the issue for months. Trump pushed for swift passage of the legislation, potentially during the lame-duck session of Congress.

"I'll be waiting with a pen," he said.

But members still haven't seen the details, and time is running short.



**President Donald Trump speaks about H. R. 5682, the "First Step Act" in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018, which would reform America's prison system.**

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. was cautious about the bill's prospects Wednesday. He told reporters that GOP leaders would do a whip count to gauge the bill's support once they have a final proposal in hand.

Still, he noted the Senate has other things it needs to accomplish in the final weeks of the year, including funding the government and passing a farm bill. He said Republicans would have to see how the criminal justice bill "stacks up against our other priorities" once a final agreement is reached.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., called Trump's announcement "an encouraging sign that we can achieve substantive reforms to our criminal justice system in this Congress."

"Redemption is at the heart of the American Idea, and that's what this is about," he said.

A White House official,

speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal thinking, said they hoped McConnell would hold a whip count after the Thanksgiving break. They also argued Trump's support would move lawmakers to back the compromise and that more would sign on once legislative text is released.

The bill is a rare bipartisan endeavor in a typically log-jammed Congress and has attracted support from a coalition of liberal and conservative groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union and groups backed by the political donors Charles and David Koch. Critics say current sentencing guidelines are unfair and have had a lopsided impact on minority communities.

"Did I hear the word bipartisan?" Trump joked during a Roosevelt Room event announcing his backing for the deal. "Did I hear that word? That's a nice word."

**Associated Press**

But even as he hailed the cooperation, Trump couldn't resist a swipe at his former political opponents, saying the "Clinton crime law" disproportionality affected black Americans.

The Senate package overhauls some of the mandatory sentencing guidelines that have been in place since 1994 legislation approved by Congress and signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton.

Democrat Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois and Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa released a joint statement, calling the endorsement "an important step in our shared effort to promote safe communities and improve justice."

Grassley had said Tuesday the bill would be easier to pass after the departure of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who was ousted by Trump last week. Sessions was a longtime opponent of criminal justice reform and had been especially

wary of efforts to overhaul sentencing laws.

The White House official called the timing coincidental.

The Senate approach would allow thousands of federal prisoners sentenced for crack cocaine offenses before August 2010 the opportunity to petition for a reduced penalty. It would also lower mandatory minimum sentences for some drug offenses. The life sentence for some drug offenders with three convictions, or "three strikes," would be reduced to 25 years.

But roughly 90 percent of prison inmates are held in state facilities and would not be affected by the legislation.

All but two Republicans voted for the House bill when it was overwhelmingly approved in May, 360-59. Democratic lawmakers supported the bill by about a 2-to-1 margin, but opponents voiced concerns that it did not go far enough in giving judges more discretion to make the punishment fit the crime.

The House bill directs the Bureau of Prisons to conduct assessments for every offender once he or she is sentenced and to offer rehabilitation plans designed to lower the chance of recidivism. The plans would include vocational training, education, counseling and substance abuse treatment.

The federal inmate population has been on the decline since 2013, when it peaked at just more than 219,000. The total now stands at about 181,400, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Still, that's about triple the number of inmates in federal detention 30 years ago. □



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## Dozens plead with Trump administration to keep air rules

By **DAN ELLIOTT**  
Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — Dozens of people who live near oil and gas wells pleaded with the Trump administration Wednesday not to roll back rules for methane pollution, while industry representatives said the changes should go further.

The Environmental Protection Agency held a hearing in Denver on the administration's plans to loosen regulations imposed by the Obama administration in 2016. The rules require energy companies to step up the detection and elimination of methane leaks at well sites and other oil and gas facilities.

Methane is the primary component of natural gas and also is a greenhouse gas. Opponents argued Wednesday that changing the rules would threaten people's health, worsen climate change and squander natural gas by allowing leaks to go undetected. They also argued it would cost taxpayers, investors and mineral owners money from the lost sale of the gas. Many accused the EPA of



Activists from ProgressNow Colorado, grassroots organizations and stakeholders join forces to demonstrate outside the United States headquarters of BP, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018, in Denver.

Associated Press

abetting polluters, looking out for the wealthy and failing its legal duty to protect public health and the environment. "Polluters do not need your protection. I do," said 13-year-old Alexis Elliott, who said emissions from oil and gas wells near her school are causing her nosebleeds, rashes, bruising and other health problems.

Susanne Beug told agency officials, "The EPA is the Environmental Protection Agency, not the Energy Protection Agency." Matthew Todd of the American Petroleum Institute said the industry is already reducing methane emis-

sions even while natural gas production is increasing. He said the EPA should do more to allow technological innovation and streamline the rules. When it unveiled the new, looser rules in September, the EPA said they would save energy companies up to \$75 million a year. But the

agency conceded that the rules "may also degrade air quality and adversely affect health and welfare." It said the new rules would allow an additional 380,000 U.S. tons (350,000 metric tons) of methane and 100,000 U.S. tons (91,000 metric tons) of volatile organic compounds into the atmosphere from 2019 to 2025. Volatile organic compounds an ingredient of ozone or smog.

The EPA wants to reduce the frequency of inspections for methane leaks and give energy companies more time to repair leaks after they are detected. The changes would also allow an energy company's in-house engineers to certify some aspects of methane control instead of requiring an outside professional engineer to do so. The EPA also wants to let energy companies opt to follow state rules instead of the federal rules in California, Colorado, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Utah. The EPA rules apply to oil and gas drilling on private land and some public land. □

## Official: Michael Avenatti in Los Angeles police custody

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Michael Avenatti, who skyrocketed to fame as a chief critic of President Donald Trump and the lawyer for porn actress Stormy Daniels, was taken into police custody Wednesday following an

allegation of domestic violence, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. Police had responded to a domestic violence incident Tuesday and took a report, but Avenatti was taken into custody Wednesday, the official said.

The official wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Avenatti remained in custody Wednesday afternoon and a call and text message seeking comment weren't immediately returned. □



In this July 27, 2018, file photo Michael Avenatti, talks to the media during a news conference in front of the U.S. Federal Courthouse in Los Angeles. Avenatti is in police custody in Los Angeles following domestic violence allegation.

Associated Press



# Mattis defends use of military on US-Mexico border

By **ROBERT BURNS**

**AP National Security Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP)** — De-

fense Secretary Jim Mattis on Wednesday defended the use of active duty troops on the U.S.-Mexican border, saying that in some ways it provides good training for war. He argued that it's analogous to a 1916 deployment to counter the Mexican revolutionary Gen. Francisco "Pancho" Villa.

Speaking to reporters on his way to visit U.S. troops along the border in south Texas, Mattis declined to provide an estimate of how much the mission will cost. He said cost figures he has received thus far are "not anywhere near right." He added that he believes, "very quickly we'll know the real cost. So we'll keep you posted as the real costs come in."

In his most extensive remarks about the hastily arranged border mission, Mattis argued that it fits an historical pattern dating to early in the 20th century. He noted that President Woodrow Wilson deployed tens of thousands of National Guard and active duty troops to the border in 1916 in response to a Mexican military raid into the U.S.

"That's over a century ago, and the threat then was



Migrants traveling with a caravan hoping to reach the U.S. border, wait to board a bus in La Concha, Mexico, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018.

Pancho Villa's troops — revolutionary raiding across the border into the United States," he said. He noted that more recently, National Guard troops were used in border missions ordered by President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama, although not on the cusp of a midterm election.

The Pentagon chief said that within a week to 10 days the 5,800 troops currently deployed for the border mission will have accomplished all the tasks ini-

tially requested by Customs and Border Protection, although additional tasks are now being worked out between the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security. Mattis did not say how soon the mission might end; current deployments are scheduled to last until Dec. 15, but that could change.

In addition to the 5,800 active duty troops in the border area, about 2,100 National Guard troops have been providing border support since April.

**Associated Press**  
Critics have questioned the wisdom of using the military on the border where there is no discernible security threat, although President Donald Trump has said that a caravan of Central American migrants traveling northward through Mexico amounts to an "invasion." Since the election, Trump has said little about the matter, and no border threat has yet materialized. Asked whether he believes there is a security threat at the border that justifies the use of the active duty mili-

tary, Mattis said he defers to the judgment of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, who joined him at the border Wednesday.

Nielsen and Mattis spoke with senior U.S. commanders and addressed rank-and-file troops. Mattis told the troops their mission is to "back up" Customs and Border Protection. "Right now that's our role and that's all our role is," he said. "The eyes of the world right now — certainly all of the Americans — are on you," Mattis told the soldiers, adding that they are part of a "non-traditional" mission. "We're here because of the number of illegals who say they are going to illegally try to cross into our country," he said, apparently referring to the several thousand migrants moving north through Mexico.

One soldier asked Mattis what are the short- and long-term plans for the military mission.

Mattis said the short-term objective is to get sufficient numbers of wire and other barriers in place along the border as requested by Customs and Border Protection. The longer-term objective, he said, is "some-what to be determined."

"When you're in something like this," Mattis said, "it's dynamic, it's unpredictable. We'll have to see." □

## Guardman at Texas border accused of sexual assault

**HOUSTON (AP)** — A Texas National Guard member serving at the U.S.-Mexico border is accused of sexually assaulting a woman in a motel, authorities said Wednesday.

Police in Alpine, Texas, arrested Luis Carlos Ontiveros, 30, on Monday. The Texas National Guard confirmed that Ontiveros was serving in a mission launched in April following President Donald Trump's call for the National Guard to go to the border.

According to an affidavit obtained by KOSA-TV, the woman told police she had been drinking and Ontiveros offered to take her back



This undated photo provided by the Alpine, Texas Police Department shows Luis Carlos Ontiveros.

**Associated Press**  
to her motel room. The woman alleged that Ontiveros started kissing her, then removed her clothes and touched her. The woman said she fled after Ontiveros told her he would perform oral sex.

A witness told police the woman knocked on his door, saying Ontiveros had tried to rape her.

Ontiveros was released Tuesday on \$20,000 bond. A message left at a number listed for Ontiveros was not immediately returned. The Associated Press generally does not identify victims in sexual assault cases.

The Texas National Guard said it would cooperate with authorities in Alpine, a remote West Texas town in the region of Big Bend National Park. The Guard would not confirm whether Ontiveros had been suspended or how long he had served in the Guard.

Ontiveros is the second guardman in Texas known to have been arrested since the Guard was sent to the border.

Edwin Baez, 20, was charged in August with stealing 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine. Federal prosecutors said Baez was detailed to an international bridge in Laredo, Texas, when he allegedly ended up in the hospital for a "drug-induced emergency." Investigators determined he had taken meth from a picture frame being used to smuggle the drugs that he was supposed to have thrown away. Baez has pleaded not guilty. □





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# Sheriff: Parkland shooting suspect assaulted jail officer

By CURT ANDERSON and  
TERRY SPENCER

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)

— Florida school shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz attacked a detention officer at the county jail and now faces new charges including use of the officer's electric stun device, authorities said Wednesday.

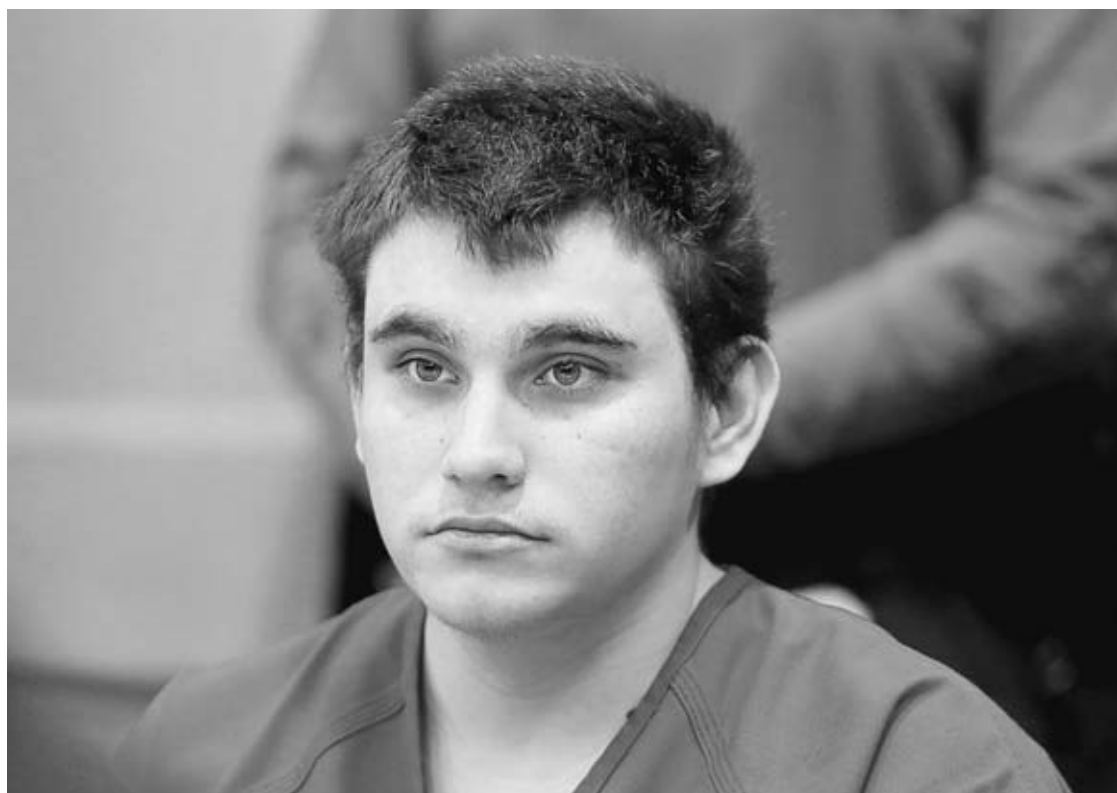
Broward Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Veda Coleman-Wright said in an email Wednesday that Cruz assaulted Sgt. Raymond Beltran around 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Jail records show Cruz now is charged with aggravated assault on an officer, battery on an officer and use of an "electric or chemical weapon against an officer."

The 20-year-old Cruz faces the death penalty in the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland that killed 17 people and wounded 17 others. He's pleaded not guilty in the shooting, but his lawyers say he would plead guilty in exchange for a life prison sentence.

According to the assault arrest report, Cruz attacked Beltran after he was told to "not drag his sandals around" while walking in a jail dayroom. Cruz responded, the report says, by showing Beltran his middle finger and then rushing the deputy and striking him with his fist.

The report says Cruz and



In this Aug. 15, 2018 file photo, Florida school shooting suspect Nikolas Cruz listens during a status check on his case at the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Beltran then "got into a physical altercation" in which both wound up on the floor and Cruz was able to wrest control of the stun gun, technically called a "conductive electronic weapon." The stun gun discharged but it's not clear from the report whether it struck anyone; Beltran was able to regain control. Beltran was struck multiple times by Cruz using his fists, according to video surveillance cited by the report. Finally, the report says Beltran struck Cruz in the face with a fist containing the stun gun and Cruz then "retreated to one of the seats" in the dayroom before he was taken into custody.

The report doesn't detail the severity of injuries to Cruz or Beltran.

"We don't know any more than you do as of yet," Broward County Public Defender Howard Finkelstein said in an email.

Cruz appeared at a brief initial hearing Wednesday on the assault charges, with bail set at \$200,000. But he won't be released because he is being held without bail on the murder charges.

Meanwhile, the state commission investigating the shooting heavily criticized Wednesday the actions of the sheriff's deputy assigned to the campus, calling him a coward for not

confronting the gunman.

Members of the Marjory Stoneman High School commission said Broward sheriff's deputy Scot Peterson was "not a real cop" and was "a coward" as they reviewed video and photos of his actions during the shooting. They said Peterson did not enter the building to confront the shooter, but stayed outside. His attorney didn't respond to an email Wednesday seeking comment. Peterson is scheduled to testify before the commission Thursday. He has previously said he didn't know whether the shots were coming from inside or outside the building and that he heard only two or three shots.

The commission also heard from a Pinellas County detective who investigated Cruz's internet searches, text messages and cell-phone usage.

Sgt. John Suess said Cruz's earliest found internet search referencing school

massacres happened three months before the Parkland shooting. On Jan. 21, Cruz wrote himself a cellphone note saying "life is a mess" and "unfair" and he was getting "even more agitated."

"I want to kill people but I don't know how to do it," he wrote.

Suess said Cruz frequently looked up the song "Pumped Up Kicks," where a shooter sings that other kids "better run, outrun my gun." About a week before the shooting, he said, Cruz searched "Is killing people easy."

On Feb. 9, five days before the shooting, Cruz did searches seeking information about homicidal thoughts and urges and for a therapist. Some commissioners believe Cruz was having second thoughts, the commission heard.

But the next day, Cruz was again looking at videos about the Columbine and Virginia Tech shootings.

Three days before the shooting, Cruz made previously released cellphone videos that he never shared outlining his plans, the commission was told. He looked up how long it takes police to respond to school shootings. On the morning of the shooting, Cruz sent innocuous texts to the friend he was living with about meeting some girls that night or that he might go to a movie. It was Valentine's Day and during the two hours before the shooting, Cruz tried repeatedly to engage his ex-girlfriend in phone and text conversations, but she told him to leave her alone and that she had a boyfriend. He responded, "You will always know I love you." He soon contacted Uber to take him to the school. □





# May wins Cabinet backing for Brexit deal but pitfalls remain

By JILL LAWLESS  
LORNE COOK  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — In a hard-won victory, British Prime Minister Theresa May persuaded her fractious Cabinet to back a draft divorce agreement with the European Union on Thursday, a decision that triggers the final steps on the long and rocky road to Brexit.

But she faces a backlash from her many political opponents and a fierce battle to get the deal through Parliament as she tries to orchestrate the U.K.'s orderly exit from the EU.

May hailed the Cabinet decision as a "decisive step" toward finalizing the exit deal with the EU within days. It sets in motion an elaborate diplomatic choreography of statements and meetings.

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier declared there had been "decisive progress" — the key phrase signaling EU leaders can convene a summit to approve the deal, probably later this month.

Crucially, Barnier said that "we have now found a solution together with the U.K. to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland."

But the agreement, hammered out between U.K. and EU negotiators after



In this grab taken from video, Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May speaks during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, London, Wednesday Nov. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

17 months of what Barnier called "very intensive" talks, infuriated pro-Brexit lawmakers in May's Conservative Party, who said it would leave Britain a vassal state, bound to EU rules that it has no say in making. Those "hard Brexit" voices include several ministers in May's Cabinet. Emerging from the five-hour meeting at 10 Downing St., May said the Cabinet talks had been "long, detailed and impassioned." She said there had been a "collective decision" to back the deal, though she did not say whether it was unanimous. "I firmly believe, with my head and my heart, that this is a decision which is in the best interests of the United Kingdom," she said. In a warning to her opponents, May said the choice

was between her deal, "or leave with no deal; or no Brexit at all."

If the EU backs the deal, as it likely will, it must be approved by Britain's Parliament. That could be a challenge, since pro-Brexit and pro-EU legislators alike are threatening to oppose it.

Pro-Brexit lawmakers say the agreement will leave Britain tethered to the EU after it departs and unable to forge an independent trade policy.

On the other side of the argument, pro-EU legislators say May's deal is worse than the status quo and the British public should get a new vote on whether to leave or to stay.

In between those two camps are May's supporters, who argue that the

deal is the best on offer, and the alternatives are a chaotic "no-deal" Brexit that would cause huge disruption to people and businesses, or an election that could see the Conservative government replaced by the left-of-center Labour Party.

Failure to secure Cabinet backing would have left May's leadership in doubt and the Brexit process in chaos, with exit day just over four months away, on March 29.

She still faces the threat of a coup attempt from her own party.

Under Conservative rules, a no-confidence vote in the leader is triggered if 15 percent of party lawmakers write letters requesting one. The required number currently stands at 48 lawmakers; only the lawmaker who collects the letters knows for sure how many have been submitted.

Pro-Brexit Conservative lawmaker Conor Burns said he wanted a change of policy rather than a new leader, but added: "There comes a point where if the PM is insistent that she will not change the policy, then the only way to change the policy is to change the personnel."

The main obstacle to a withdrawal agreement has

long been how to ensure there are no customs posts or other checks along the border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland after Brexit.

Britain and the EU agree that there must be no barriers that could disrupt businesses and residents on either side of the border and undermine Northern Ireland's hard-won peace process.

As part of the agreement, the U.K. will agree to follow EU rules in areas like animal welfare, environmental standards and workplace protections — another source of anger for Brexiters, who say Britain should be free to set its own rules. The solution is intended to be temporary — superseded by a permanent trade deal.

But pro-Brexit politicians in Britain fear it may become permanent, hampering Britain's ability to strike new trade deals around the world.

Leading Euroskeptic Conservative legislator Jacob Rees-Mogg urged his colleagues to vote against the deal, saying it "will lock us into an EU customs union and EU laws. This will prevent us pursuing a U.K. trade policy based around our priorities and economy." □

# Red Cross says conditions not right for Rohingyas to return



In this photograph taken Aug. 27, 2018, a Rohingya man looks at medicines being sold on the roadside in Balukhali refugee camp, Bangladesh.

Associated Press

Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — The International Committee of the Red Cross says conditions are not right for Rohingya Muslim refugees to return safely to Myanmar from Bangladesh, where over 700,000 have sought refuge since August 2017 following a military crackdown.

Robert Mardini is the organization's U.N. observer. He told reporters Wednesday that the conflict between the Rohingya and Myanmar's government is not resolved and added that there is no place to go back to because "so many villages" are flattened in Myanmar's Rakhine state,

where the Rohingyas live. Mardini said that "we still believe that the conditions are not right for voluntary, safe, dignified returns." The International Committee of the Red Cross is one of the very few humanitarian organizations operating in Rakhine. □





# Swedish parliament rejects proposed government

By DAVID KEYTON

Associated Press

**STOCKHOLM (AP)** — More than two months after elections that left Sweden in political limbo, lawmakers on Wednesday rejected a proposed minority coalition led by the second-largest party, the first time in Swedish history that a proposal for a new prime minister has been defeated.

Parliament voted by 195 votes to 154 to reject the Speaker's plan for a coalition of the center-right Moderates and the small Christian Democrats, with Moderates leader Ulf Kristersson as prime minister. Those opposing the coalition said it would give influence to the anti-immigrant Sweden Democrats — the third-largest party but considered a pariah by many — because the government would be dependent on that party's support in parliament.

Wednesday's vote was the first of a possible four before Speaker Andreas Norlen must call new elections. It was the first time that a candidate for prime minister



**Ulf Kristersson, leader of the center-right party Moderates, makes his way to a press meeting in the Riksdag, Stockholm, Wednesday Nov. 14, 2018.**

has ever been rejected by the 349-seat Riksdagen. Norlen said he would continue talks with party leaders on Thursday, without giving details.

The September election produced a hung parliament with the left-leaning side and the center-right bloc securing about 40 percent of the vote each, leaving neither with a majority and paving the way

for months of uncertainty and complex coalition talks.

Both blocs have refused to cooperate with the Sweden Democrats, who made great strides in the election. Annie Loof, the leader of the Center Party that voted against Kristersson, said he had broken up the 14-year-old center-right alliance by suggesting a two-party government, leaving out

her party and the Liberals. Kristersson said that although the alliance has suffered "its worst crisis," it is not dead.

"We have a common platform, but we cannot agree when it comes to taking power."

Caretaker Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, who heads Sweden's largest party — the Social Democrats — said he was willing to dis-

cuss with Loof should she be tapped to try to form a coalition.

Loof earlier said that she doesn't want to be prime minister herself but is willing to try to form a government. Pundits say either Loof or Lofven would be next in line to try to form a government.

The emergence of Sweden Democrats — with roots in a neo-Nazi movement — reflects how deeply that Sweden is being transformed by migration.

In 2015, Sweden took in a record 163,000 migrants — the highest per capita of any European country. Since then, the country has sharply restricted immigration, but many Swedes complain that society cannot cope with integrating so many newcomers, many of them Muslims from Africa and the Middle East.

Ahead of Wednesday's vote, Jimmie Akesson, the leader of the Sweden Democrats, said he sees "a new political landscape mushroom in Sweden, exactly like in the rest of the western world." □

Associated Press

# Macedonia ex-leader requests asylum in Hungary

By KONSTANTIN TESTORIDES

PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press

**SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP)** —

Former Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, who fled his country to avoid a two-year prison term for corruption, has requested asylum in Hungary, the Hungarian government said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev called on Hungary to extradite Gruevski, his bitter political rival.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's office said it considers Gruevski's asylum request "solely a legal issue" and views Macedonia as "an important ally."

"The Macedonian government of the day is a partner of Hungary in interstate relations, and therefore we in no way wish to intervene in the internal affairs of sovereign countries," Orban's



**In this Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 file photo, Nikola Gruevski, former country's Prime Minister and now a lawmaker of the opposition VMRO-DPMNE, looks on in Macedonian Parliament in the capital Skopje.**

Associated Press

office said.

For his part, Zaev said he expects the Hungarian government to respect international law by returning Gruevski.

"What will be (Macedonia's) motivation to join the European Union if one of its member states becomes a shelter for criminals?" he said during a news conference in Skopje with visiting Maltese Prime Minister Jo-

seph Muscat.

Macedonia's justice ministry spokesman, Vladimir Delov, told The Associated Press that the ministry is preparing the necessary documentation for Gruevski's extradition.

Gruevski, prime minister from 2006-2016, fled after Macedonian police tried to arrest him to serve the prison sentence. He was convicted in May of unlawfully

influencing interior ministry officials over the purchase of a luxury vehicle.

Delov said the formal extradition request will take some time as the documents need to be translated into Hungarian. Macedonia has no extradition agreement with Hungary, but can seek application of the European Convention on Extradition that binds members of the Council of Europe — to which both countries belong.

In Hungary, left- and right-wing opposition parties called on the Orban government to extradite Gruevski.

Earlier Wednesday, Macedonian authorities temporarily jailed two former government officials on trial for corruption following Gruevski's flight.

A criminal court on Wednesday ordered former transport minister Mile

Janakieski and former government secretary-general Kiril Bozinovski to be held for 30 days. Prosecutors sought their detention amid fears they could also try to flee the country.

Gruevski's flight marks the latest dramatic episode in a volatile confrontation between his conservatives and Zaev's Social Democrats.

The two sides remain bitterly at odds over a proposed deal to change the republic's name to North Macedonia and end a dispute with neighboring Greece that would allow Macedonia to join NATO and start accession talks with the European Union.

Western leaders provided Zaev's government strong backing in supporting the deal, while Russia argued that it was the target of the alliance's expansion eastward. □



# Architects, activists slam Jerusalem Old City cable car plan

By ISABEL DEBRE  
Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — An Israeli plan to build a cable car to Jerusalem's historic Old City has united architects and Palestinian activists in opposition to a project they say is both an eyesore and a ploy to entrench Israeli control over the city's contested eastern sector. Developers say the proposed project is meant to relieve snarling traffic and will ferry some 3,000 tourists an hour from the western sector directly to the Old City, in east Jerusalem. It follows a series of Israeli projects in the combustible city that have enraged the Palestinians.

Further complicating matters is the project's association with the Elad Foundation, a group that has settled Jewish nationalists in the heart of Jerusalem's Arab neighborhoods. The final cable car station will be integrated into a future tourist center run by the organization.

"The cable car will send oblivious tourists flying over the heads of Palestinians and drop them off in the middle of occupied east Jerusalem, the eye of the storm, the .... center of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," said Betty Herschman of Ir Amim, an advocacy group that promotes equality in the city. "This cable car is putting new facts on the ground that undermine any possibility for a peace process."

Israel captured east Jerusalem, along with the limestone-walled Old City, in the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed it, a move never recognized internationally.



In this Sept. 9, 2013 file photo, the Dome of the Rock Mosque in the Al Aqsa Mosque compound is seen in Jerusalem's old city.

The Palestinians claim the eastern sector as capital of a future state while Israel considers the entire city its eternal, undivided capital. The conflicting claims to east Jerusalem lie at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and have frequently spilled over into violence.

In recent years, Israel has carried out a series of initiatives, billed as development projects, that have infuriated the Palestinians. Israel built a light rail train through both parts of the city, abutting the Old City and snaking through predominantly Arab neighborhoods.

The train is popular with Arabs and Jews, but it has also been the target of Palestinian rioters when tensions rise.

Another proposed plan involves digging a railway tunnel under Jerusalem's

Old City, passing near sites holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims.

The proposed line would end at the Western Wall, with a station named after President Donald Trump, who is cheered in Israel for having recognized Jerusalem as its capital.

Beyond political opposition, the cable car has faced an outcry from urban planners and architects.

"This project is an outrage, an affront to our historic skyline," said Moshe Safdie, a renowned architect who signed a petition against the plan along with 70 Israeli figures from architecture, archaeology and academia.

"This will Disneyfy a sacred place. Imagine a huge cable car flying over the Vatican and dumping tourists in front of St. Peter's. It's unprecedented."

No image says Jerusalem like the postcard view of its Old City — with its towering ancient walls, the Western Wall and the glimmering gold-topped Dome of the Rock.

The cable car would run 1,400 meters (nearly one mile), launching from the First Station, a popular food and cultural center in west Jerusalem, sailing over the city's ancient valley, stopping at Mount Zion, a hill just outside the Old

City walls, and proceeding through the Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan before alighting at the tourist center.

Aber Zayyad, a Palestinian resident of Silwan and director of its women's community center, said she fears the cable car flying overhead will infringe on residents' privacy and that its construction may harm houses and a local cemetery.

"Our tombs will likely be damaged, not to mention our lives," she said. "And of course it will further attempts to make Jerusalem a solely Jewish city."

The cable car's destination at the tourist center has sparked concern about the project's potential to serve settler interests by promoting Elad's exclusive Jewish narrative of the city.

"We believe that this is an attempt to change the character of the city and its face ... its culture and identity," said Adnan Hussein, the Palestinian minister of Jerusalem Affairs.

Israel's Tourism Ministry denies any political motivation. It says the cable car presents an environmentally friendly solution to the crisis of congestion, accessibility and parking at a time of record-breaking tourist visits. The Old City is Israel's No. 1 tourist destination.

Israel's National Infrastructure Committee, which fast-tracks transportation projects of national importance, has given approval to the project.

A building permit is to come after a 60-day period of public review — a step that developers believe will be a formality.

In May, Israel allocated some \$55 million to the project and, barring major complications, cars should be crisscrossing the valley by 2021, the Tourism Ministry said.

Amir Halevi, the ministry's director general, said he sympathizes with concerns about the sensitivity of the site but claimed that the rapidly rising tourism rates demand a dramatic response.

"There is always the question of how to balance developing and preserving," he said. "But you cannot stop development."

Halevi added that the Ministry mapped the cable car route carefully to "minimize" the evacuation and demolition of buildings.

He stressed the cable car would not enter the Old City or go over its walls, but would stop just outside. "We're doing this to prevent the need to construct more invasive things," he said.

Urban planning experts disagree that the cable cars, which hold 10 people per carriage, will resolve the city's daunting transportation problems.

Salmah Milson Arad, director of the Jerusalem chapter of the Association of Architects and Urban Planners, estimated the cable cars will relieve only around 30 percent of bus traffic.

Other critics have questioned whether the massive undertaking will even appeal to customers.

"Israelis come to the (Western) Wall in their cars, the ultra-Orthodox walk, Arabs won't use this, and it's hard to imagine tourists in massive buses going out of their way to get to First Station," said Giora Solar, architect and former director of conservation for Israel's Antiquities Authority. "So who's going to benefit?" □







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## Missing elite Chinese university alumni spark outcry

By YANAN WANG  
Associated Press

**BEIJING (AP)** — Students and alumni of several Chinese universities are sounding the alarm over the apparent detention of more than a dozen young labor activists who have been missing since the weekend. Three recent graduates of the elite Peking University have been taken away by authorities, the Jasic Workers Support Group said in a statement late Tuesday. According to the group, witnesses saw one person being “kidnapped” from the Beijing campus, while others in Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Shanghai also disappeared.

They were involved in a coalition, led by young Marxist activists, that was founded this summer to show solidarity with factory workers at Jasic Technology, a welding equipment manufac-



In this photo provided by the Jasic Workers Support Group and taken Aug 2018, members of the Jasic Workers Support Group pose for a group photo after a campaign promoting worker's rights in Dezhou city in Guangdong province.

Associated Press

turer in southern China.

Activists in China are rou-

tinely “disappeared” by authorities working for the

ruling Communist Party, which is wary of any collec-

tive action and potential threats to its authority. The government is particularly guarded about campus movements after the 1989 student-led pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square which were ultimately crushed by the military.

The sudden disappearances all occurred at around 9 p.m. on Friday, the Jasic Workers Support Group said. Three others in Wuhan, including one factory worker, were taken away by police on Sunday, though one was released early the next day.

Peking University students and alumni expressed alarm after students published accounts online saying that they were beaten on campus by unidentified men who forced a recent graduate named Zhang Shengye into a car on Friday evening. □

## North Korean delegation visits South to attend history forum

By HYUNG-JIN KIM  
Associated Press

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — A five-member North Korean delegation came to South Korea on Wednesday to attend an academic forum on Japan's wartime actions, as the rivals continue reconciliation efforts despite stalemated U.S.-led nuclear diplomacy.

The North Koreans are among 300 people from nine countries who are taking part in Friday's forum near Seoul. The meeting will discuss Japan's forced

mobilization of laborers in the region during World War II and how to boost exchanges now among Asia-Pacific countries.

The North Koreans are led by Ri Jong Hyok, vice chairman of the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee. Participants from other countries including South Korea, Japan and China, are mostly civilian scholars and former officials. Ex-Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who has been apologetic about Japan's past wrongdoing, will represent the Japanese

side, according to organizers.

The forum is organized by Gyeonggi province, which surrounds Seoul, and a South Korean civic organization.

The South Korean government has said it has no plans to meet with the North Koreans during their four-day visit.

Anti-Japanese sentiment runs deep in both Koreas because the Korean Peninsula was colonized by Japan for 35 years before its division at the end of World War II in 1945. □



North Korean vice chairman of the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee Ri Jong Hyok, center, arrives at the Incheon International Airport in Incheon, South Korea, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018.

Associated Press







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## Pro-Trump diplomat to become Brazil's foreign minister

By MAURICIO SAVARESE

Associated Press

**SAO PAULO (AP)** — President-elect Jair Bolsonaro announced Wednesday that he is naming an admirer of U.S. President Donald Trump to be Brazil's foreign minister in the new administration.

Bolsonaro, a far-right politician who takes office Jan. 1, went on Twitter to announce the choice of diplomat Ernesto Araujo.

Araujo now heads the foreign ministry's department for United States, Canada and Inter-American affairs. He is anti-left and a self-proclaimed nationalist, and he campaigned for Bolsonaro, who was elected Oct. 28.

"The Brazilian foreign policy must be a part of the moment of recovery that Brazil lives today," the president-elect said about his appointee. Araujo has praised Trump's approach to foreign relations, saying the U.S. leader proposes a view



Brazil's President-elect Jair Bolsonaro attends a joint statement with Brazil's president, after a meeting at the Presidential Palace, in Brasilia, Brazil, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018.

Associated Press

of the West that is based on the recovery of its symbolic past. The Brazilian diplomat also believes globalism is an anti-Christian ideology.

Bolsonaro, a former army

captain and longtime congressman, has on several occasions compared himself to Trump, although many analysts say his tough anti-crime and pro-gun po-

sitions resemble more those of Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte.

Some diplomats were surprised with Araujo's appointment because he has

never been in charge of an embassy during his 29-year diplomatic service.

Bolsonaro's aggressive rhetoric has already caused tensions with Egypt and Cuba, issues that Araujo will deal with once in office.

The Arab nation cancelled a trip of Brazilian lawmakers this year after the president-elect promised to move the Brazilian Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Bolsonaro later said the decision was not taken.

Cuba announced earlier Wednesday that it was ending a program that sent almost 9,000 medics to Brazil, acting after Bolsonaro said the program could continue only under new conditions. Among other things, he said the doctors must receive their salaries directly from Brazil and not through the Cuban government and be allowed to bring their families with them during their assignments. □

## Former Honduran president criticizes brother's prosecution

By FREDDY CUEVAS

Associated Press

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)** — Former Honduran President Porfirio Lobo said Tuesday that the Central American country's current government is trampling his honor by bringing corruption cases against his wife and most recently his brother. Last week, prosecutors accused 91-year-old Ramon Lobo of pocketing some \$300,000 that the government had paid soldiers guarding him at a ranch north of the capital.



In this Jan. 27, 2010 file photo, Honduras' President Porfirio Lobo, waves during his presidential inauguration ceremony in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Associated Press

Authorities also arrested Wilfredo Cerrato, a presidential administrator during Lobo's term and who now represents Honduras at the Central American Parliament. Cerrato allegedly passed checks to Ramon Lobo. Porfirio Lobo's wife has been held since February on charges of diverting \$700,000 in public funds. His son, Fabio, was sentenced in the U.S. last year to 24 years in prison for drug trafficking.

"Those running this country are allowing them to vio-

late my human rights and trample my dignity," Porfirio Lobo said. "It is all a show, a trick, to divert public attention from the government's notorious corruption cases." An international anti-corruption mission backed by the Organization of American States is working with Honduran prosecutors. In June, prosecutors announced an investigation into public funds that were allegedly diverted to the 2013 campaign of President Juan Orlando Hernandez. □



# Ocean of Pure Joy



Aruba has the most amazing beaches and dining-on-the-sand. Gazing at the most stunning sunset is not a dream here. Though there is one spot that gives you even more: total romance. At the end of the hotel strip we find restaurant Pure Ocean, part of the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort. "Here there is no traffic of people walking by, you are in complete peace with your feet in the sand while enjoying culinary delights and pairing wines," says Chantal Beke, Food & Beverage of the resort. Now is the time to go as the restaurant just launched their new menu.

## Special Menu

Be calm. There is no rush. Take your time and indulge. That is the pace you will get into when taking a part in the sunset dining experience Pure Ocean offers you. "Italy stands for culinary joy so our special menu is based on that cuisine, but our Executive Chef always adds a bit of local spirit which makes the dishes sparkle", Chantal explains. What to think of an appetizer like 'polenta fries with truffle sea salt, parmesan & Pomodoro sauce' or 'mango bruschetta', 'balsamic pork tenderloin in red wine sauce with risotto asparagus' or 'ricotta stuffed ravioli with roasted local grown mushrooms' as entrée while you top off with a dessert chef's selection? Best of it: there is a bottle of wine included that is paired with your menu.

## Pure Treatment

The wines specially selected to match the dishes come from different countries, but Italy is of course mainly represented. Prices are per couple, very reasonable and include 3-courses plus a bottle of wine. The perfect package for the perfect



experience. "Peek time is around sun set when guests find their paradise here to collect their thoughts and/or dine with their significant other." Chantal mentions the trend of people being well-traveled and more knowledgeable about food. "But with the wines there might be a need of some help and there is where we come in." Besides the menu there are the a la carte choices, all accompanied by live music on most days of the week. "Friday is Pure Romance with a sax or violin for example."

The restaurant offers a breakfast buffet too between 7-11 AM, dinner is on from 6 to 10 PM and -not to forget- there is a Happy Hour from 6 to 7 PM offering 2 for the price of 1. Reservations are advised, there are only 80 seats available in this intimate setting. "You can be outside on the beach, halfway on the beach-walk or inside under the 'palapa'. Let us give you the Pure treatment." □



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### What Is It About?

Thanksgiving is on Thursday November 22nd, the day before Black Friday.. Thanksgiving Day traditionally kicks off the 'holiday season' in the United States. The day was set in stone by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 and approved by Congress in 1941. FDR changed it from Abraham Lincoln's designation as the last Thursday in November (because there are sometimes five Thursdays in the month).

Many Americans think of it as just

as important as Christmas. In fact, more people in the US celebrate Thanksgiving than they do Christmas. Thanksgiving Day is a secular holiday in a country that officially separates church and state so this probably makes sense. Thanksgiving can be traced back to 1621 where refugees from England, known as Pilgrims, invited the local Native Americans to a harvest feast after they experienced a successful season of produce growth. But it wasn't just the economic drive that allowed the Pilgrims to prosper. It was their devotion to God and His laws. And that's what Thanksgiving is really all about. The Pilgrims recognized that everything we have is a gift from God – even our sorrows. Their Thanksgiving tradition was established to honor God and thank Him for His blessings and His grace. □





# Creative Islander

By Thaïs G. Franken

## Let's talk about the Orange Economy

**Maastricht – No country survives without a thriving economy. Aruba has been developing for quite some time and has explored numerous options for diversification. In the past columns, I have indicated the importance of expanding the economic horizon of the island. Considering the negative developments of the oil refinery in San Nicolas, the vulnerable developments of the small-medium enterprises, we have been solely depending and relying on the growth of the tourism sector for decades since our independence. Today we will discuss the first part of possible economic impact of introducing a CCI here in Aruba.**

### How so an economic impact?

In the past, many professionals would have considered it a bit too extreme to merge culture and the economy with each other. Culture being flexible, creative and multi-dimensional can also be related to economic developments of a community. According to UNESCO, culture has been a productive sector and is playing an increasingly critical role in national economies all over the world. Cultural activities and industries are becoming drivers for growth, enabling the diversification of national economies, generating income and creating employment in developed, developing and emerging economies. The "Orange Economy" is a relatively new phenomena that expresses the Cultural and Creative Economy, even though the CCI has already been in development for years. The color orange is representative of creativity and cultural expression in many global societies.

Further along, CCIs provide the opportunity for entrepreneurship and a diversified employment. Besides this, CCIs tend to favor the par-

ticipation of women compared to more traditional industries. Now to be able to visualize the economic impact of a CCI towards the Aruban economy is to measure it. The most common way to measure an industry's contribution (any type of industry) to the national economy is to measure its value added, including its share of labor and capital. The summation of the value added of all industries is equal to the gross domestic product (GDP), the standard measure of the size of national economies. However, generally the value added by individual CCI is not available from government sources. This lack of official data makes it difficult to estimate the creative economy's contribution to world output. During my research, this was also the case. I was unable to find out based of the current information at the government what exactly the economic impact of a CCI would be. So, this means, we should conduct more research as a whole.

### The CCI value chain

The most explicit way of portraying the CCI economic overview is to indicate the value chain surrounding the CCI. The CCI value chain consists out of 4 layers. These four layers include the creators on the top level, the primary investors on the second level, secondary investors and facilitators on the third level, and lastly, the consumer at the lower level.

Thinking back at the definition of the CCI in one of the first columns, we can conclude that the CCI is very broad, extensive and very much diversified across many niche markets. For the first layer, some examples for the creators in this scheme are composers, musicians, poets, performing artists, software engineers, painters, architects, designers, cultural workers or writers. This can be any professional that creates something out of their own imagination, craft or specialty.

**Continued on Page 15**





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## Let's talk about the Orange Economy

Continued from Page 14

When it comes to the second layer, the primary investors, you can think of the entity that helps the creative person merge into the economy. Think of for example publishers, record companies, promoters, directors etc. These people are the ones who take over what has been created in order to make it tangible or ready for the consumer, which is YOU.

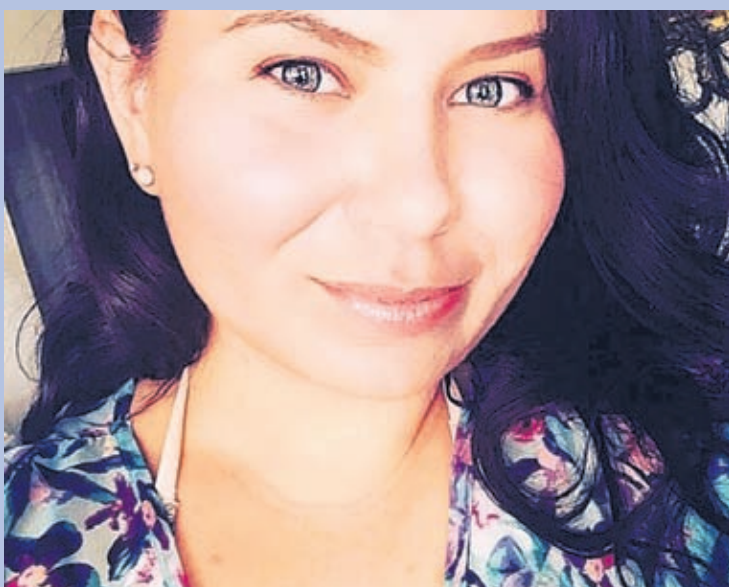
Next to this, secondary investors are the considered the middle man between the primary and the consumer (YOU). They are most times

the manufacturers, distributors, retailers, venue operators, broadcasters, managers, booking agents, lawyers, tickets agents, advertisers or the technical services. They make the transition from the primary investor easier to the final consumer.

The last layer are the consumers, which are all of us. Consumers in this sense would be for example purchasers of CDs, books, tickets to concerts, listeners of the radio, TV, and social media, and subscribers to online services. All layers are important in their own way and each con-

tribute significantly to the development and success of a CCI.

Overall, the main attribute of today is to understand how the CCI value chain looks like. To understand each stakeholder in the value chain and the importance of collaboration of these stakeholders with the community. The success of a CCI in Aruba does not only depend of a good structure and design, but requires the support and cooperation of the community and that includes YOU. Are you ready for the cause? Are you ready to link ORANGE? ☐



## Meet Our New Columnist

**Thaïs G. Franken is a Master Student at the University of Maastricht in The Netherlands and Graduate School of Governance | UNI-MERIT.**

Aruba Today met this remarkable young lady during an interview for our newspaper. Her ambitions, her drive, her passion and her happy forthcoming made a big impression and out of this came the mutual desire to work together. Aruba Today is more than happy to announce Thaïs as our new columnist. Her column Creative Islander will appear every two weeks on Thursday in Aruba Today. Welcome to the club Thaïs. ☐



# O cOndominium on Eagle Beach, hosts a Spantenbier Event



**EAGLE BEACH – After months of intense construction, and years of careful planning, O cOndominium, is pleased to celebrate its spantenbier, the topping of the roof, at its iconic Eagle Beach location. O cOndominium was conceived as a barefoot lifestyle enclave of pure island cool.**

Its location is legendary. Situated on the edge of one of the world's top beaches, and just ten minutes from picturesque downtown Oranjestad, Aruba's new premium address boasts 40 luxurious oceanfront condominiums, featuring spectacular views of the famous white Eagle Beach sands, crystal clear turquoise waters, and iridescent sunsets.

O cOndominium, just minutes from happening Palm Beach and the indulgences of the high-rise hotel area, offers easy access to a great mix of shopping, dining, entertainment, gaming, and exciting nightlife.

In addition, the complex is just steps away from a wide variety of ocean activities, golfing, and the tranquil

low-rise resort area with its pristine beaches.

Following current trends of modernism and minimalism, a team of highly talented and creative Architects, Interior Designers, and Landscape Artists created a stunning building with lush grounds, exceptional services, and a spectacular collection of luxury residences, in seven distinctive unit designs, taking full advantage of the incomparable oceanfront location and sunset orientation.

The happy residents of O cOndominium will find an enjoyable mix of spacious Apartment Home living with countless luxury amenities in every room. From flawless space planning to sound attention to detail, O cOndominium delivers a true and comfortable island life haven. Some of the spectacular design features include spacious sun-drenched rooms, panoramic views, avant-garde design elements, and luxury finishes for the 2- and 3-bedroom residences, ranging in size from 140 m2 to 256 m2. (1,507 sq. ft to 2,755 sq. ft)

Creating what is the first Boutique Resort-Style Residence Compound



on the Island's prestigious Eagle Beach, the developers' vision for O includes amenities and services comparable to 5-star resort hotels, with an inviting modern lobby with reception, lounge areas, an expansive beachfront pool area with infinity edge pool, Jacuzzi, lounge chairs, umbrellas, BBQ area, showers, and coded date for beach access, beside a state-of-the-art air-conditioned fitness facility with outdoor space, spinning bikes, and up-to-date gym equipment.

Some of the services offered by O include concierge & reception, 24-hour Security, optional vacation rental program & management, maintenance and janitorial services, furniture packages and related. Best of all, all units are delivered turnkey with trendy interior design fixtures, contemporary European Kitchens, quality finishes, and premium architectural elements.

Visit the onsite sales office, south of the Screaming Eagle restaurant, T.:

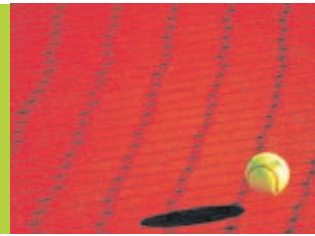
+297.586-2200, J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 224. Email: [sales@o-eaglebeach-aruba.com](mailto:sales@o-eaglebeach-aruba.com), and become one of the few who will experience the blissful, unparalleled luxurious resort living concept that awaits O residents.

About the developers: The developers of O cOndominium are also the developers of Gold Coast Aruba, a subsidiary of Cas Bon Development Group (Cas Bon). Cas Bon is a family-owned corporation specializing in residential community development and consists of local investors who have over 20 years of real estate experience in Aruba. The company has developed a wide range of projects over the years, that resulted in the construction of more than 70 homes annually, and laid a solid and experienced organizational foundation. Cas Bon is the largest construction company of private homes in Aruba; it enjoys a close contact with customers, suppliers, employees, banks and the local community. □





# SPORTS



In this Jan. 14, 2018, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell (26) heads for the end zone after taking a pass from quarterback Ben Roethlisberger during the second half of an NFL divisional football AFC playoff game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

## Steelers RB Le'Veon Bell refuses to sign tag, out for 2018

By WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) —

Le'Veon Bell's patience on the football field sets him apart. In a game built on chaos, the star running back rarely hurries or makes hasty decisions.

His ability to put his hand on the back of an offensive lineman while waiting for the hole to open — much like a child sticking close to a parent in a crowded store — helps him make the remarkably difficult at times look remarkably easy. His career at a crossroads partly of his own making, Bell will have to rely on that patience now more than ever after the two-time All-Pro declined to sign his one-year, \$14.4 million franchise tender with the Pittsburgh Steelers by Tuesday's deadline, making him ineligible to play for the AFC North leaders or anyone else this season.

Continued on Page 20

# CHECK MATE



## Speedy Maple Leafs race away from Kings in 5-1 rout

Los Angeles Kings defenseman Oscar Fantenberg, left, of Sweden, puts Toronto Maple Leafs center Frederik Gauthier into the boards during the first period of an NHL game Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press  
Page 19



## Djokovic overcomes illness to progress at ATP Finals

By **SAM JOHNSTON**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Novak Djokovic overcame an illness — and Alexander Zverev — to advance to the last four of the ATP Finals.

Despite requiring a tissue to blow his nose between points, Djokovic beat Zverev 6-4, 6-1 on Wednesday to earn a second straight victory at the season-ending tournament.

"Unfortunately today hasn't been great in terms of that (illness)," Djokovic said. "Somehow I managed to gather the strength when I needed it."

Djokovic's passage to an eighth semifinal at the tournament was confirmed when Marin Cilic defeated John Isner 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-4 in the late match.

The five-time champion from Serbia saved two break points at 4-4 in the opening set and then broke Zverev in the following game to take the lead. Zverev won only one more game.

"Maybe he was a little bit sick or something like that," Zverev said. "But he still played like he felt at his absolute best. That's kind of all that matters."

With Zverev having defeated Cilic in the opening match of the round-robin, all three players still have a chance of reaching the semifinals for the first time.



**Marin Cilic of Croatia plays a return to John Isner of the United States during their ATP World Tour Finals men's singles tennis match at the O2 arena in London, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018.**

Associated Press

The top-ranked Djokovic and third-seeded Zverev engaged in a number of thrilling exchanges early on, but it wasn't until the ninth game that Zverev earned the first break point of the match, aided by a friendly net cord. Djokovic saved it with a service winner but then double-faulted to give the 21-year-old another opportunity.

Zverev played a great defensive forehand slice to set up a chance to finish the point with a backhand lob, but his attempt drifted just wide and Djokovic held on for 5-4.

Zverev then made a spate

of errors in the next game to bring up set point for Djokovic, and double-faulted to hand the Serb the lead.

"If I made the break, it goes the other direction a little bit," Zverev said.

The German rallied from 0-30 down in his next service game to hold, but that was the last of his resistance.

Djokovic broke for a 3-1 lead and then lost just one more point as he remained on track to equal Roger Federer's six titles at the tournament.

Victory in London would cap a remarkable season

for Djokovic, who has already secured the year-end No. 1 ranking after dropping as low as 22nd in June.

The 31-year-old ended a two-year Grand Slam title drought by winning Wimbledon in July before collecting his 14th major trophy at the U.S. Open two months later.

Cilic ended a four-match losing streak at the O2 Arena as he came from behind to beat Isner, the hard-serving American who is making his debut at the tournament. It was the first match all week that went to three sets. □

## Former Wimbledon finalist Radwanska retires from tennis

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)** — Former Wimbledon finalist Agnieszka Radwanska says she is retiring from tennis after a 13-year career.

The 29-year-old Pole, who reached a career-high ranking of No. 2, says she is "no longer able to train and play the way I used to."

Radwanska won 20 WTA titles in her career. She reached the Wimbledon final in 2012, losing to Serena Williams in three sets. Radwanska also reached the semifinals at the All England Club in 2013 and '15, as well as reaching the French Open semifinals in 2014 and '16.

Radwanska says she's not leaving tennis completely, adding "it's time for new challenges, new ideas, equally as exciting as those on the tennis court, I hope." □



**In this July 8, 2017, file photo, Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska celebrates after beating Switzerland's Timea Bacsinszky in their women's singles at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London.**

Associated Press

## U.S. women end year with 1-0 win over Scotland

By **The Associated Press**

Alex Morgan scored late in the first half and the U.S. national team wrapped up the year with a 1-0 victory Tuesday over Scotland in Glasgow.

The U.S. team is undefeated this year with 19 wins and two ties.

The Americans have an unbeaten streak of 28 games (25 wins, three ties) dating to a 1-0 loss to Australia in the Tournament of Nations last year. It was also the team's 12th shut-out of the year.

"It's been great this year being undefeated. I don't feel like this was our strongest performance by any means, but I do have to give credit to Scotland. I feel like they played very well, pretty physical team, and, first half, there was a lot of times they dominated play. It's a team we could very well see in the World Cup," Morgan said. The U.S. team is the defending World Cup champion and it qualified for next year's tournament in France at the CONCACAF women's championship last month. Morgan scored her 98th career goal in international play in the 39th minute off a cross from Mallory Pugh. Morgan has 25 goals in her last 26 matches.

University of North Carolina sophomore defender Emily Fox made her second straight start for the national team, while regular starters Megan Rapinoe and Lindsey Horan were given the night off. Carli Lloyd wore the captain's armband.

Lloyd's penalty kick in the 62nd minute hit the crossbar and caromed away. The U.S. team was without Christen Press and Tobin Heath because of personal commitments.

The game at St. Mirren Park was the U.S. team's last of the year. The United States won 1-0 against Portugal in the first match of the two-game European trip on Thursday. It was the team's first visit to Europe since last year. □



# Suspension over early, Wilson helps lead Caps past Wild

**By The Associated Press**  
**ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)** — Tom Wilson returned early from his player-safety suspension and scored a first-period goal, helping the Washington Capitals cool off Minnesota with a 5-2 victory on Tuesday night for the Wild's first regulation loss at home. Dmitry Orlov had his first two goals of the season and an assist, Andre Burakovsky and T.J. Oshie also scored and Pheonix Copley made 26 saves for the Capitals, whose four-game trip was jump-started in the morning by an arbitrator's reduction of Wilson's 20-game ban by six games to make him immediately eligible.

Mikko Koivu and Matt Dumba had goals for the Wild, who played at home for the first time in 17 days after a 5-2 finish on their franchise-record seven-game road swing. They fell to 5-1-2 at Xcel Energy Center, becoming the last team in the NHL to lose at home in regulation this season.

Wilson played right wing on the first line with captain Alex Ovechkin and center Evgeny Kuznetsov. He just finished serving his fourth suspension in a little more than a year, this for a blind-side hit to the head of an opponent during a pre-season game.

**SABRES 2, LIGHTNING 1**  
**BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)** — Carter Hutton stopped 29 shots and the Buffalo Sabres won their third straight game by beating Eastern Conference-leading Tampa Bay. Jeff Skinner scored his team-leading 13th goal and Kyle Okposo also scored for Buffalo. Defenseman Nathan Beaulieu had two assists, and the Sabres improved to 10-6-2 for their best start since opening 11-7 in 2011-12.

Anthony Cirelli scored for the Lightning, who lost consecutive games for the first time since an 0-3 skid from March 24-29 last season.

**RED WINGS 6, COYOTES 1**  
**DETROIT (AP)** — Defense-  
 man Mike Green had a goal and two assists, and Detroit extended its winning streak to four games.



Washington Capitals' Tom Wilson, top left, scores a goal on Minnesota Wild goalie Devan Dubnyk, right, in the first period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018, in St. Paul, Minn. Associated Press

Andreas Athanasiou added a goal and an assist for the third straight game, and Anthony Mantha, defenseman Dennis Cholowski, Michael Rasmussen and Luke Glendening also scored for Detroit, which has won seven of its last eight to get back to .500 (8-8-2) after a 1-7-2 start. Jimmy Howard made 24 saves.

Lawson Crouse scored for Arizona. Darcy Kuemper stopped 12 shots and rookie Hunter Miska made eight saves in his NHL debut.

**PANTHERS 2, FLYERS 1**  
**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Aaron Ekblad and Evgenii Dadonov scored goals, Roberto Luongo made 29 saves and Florida beat Philadelphia for its fifth straight win.

Jakub Voracek had the lone goal for the Flyers, who had won three straight and five of six. Both teams have rebounded nicely after struggling early in the season. The Panthers are 7-5-3, while the Flyers are 9-8-1.

Just eight seconds after Voracek tied the game, Luongo stoned him on a breakaway after Nolan Patrick won the face-off. Oskar Lindblom hit a post on a shot a few minutes later for Philadelphia.

**ISLANDERS 5, CANUCKS 2**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Tom Kuhnackl scored two

goals to lead New York past Vancouver.

Jordan Eberle had a goal and an assist and Josh Bailey also scored to help the Islanders end a three-game skid.

Mathew Barzal and Brock Nelson each had two assists and Thomas Greiss stopped 22 shots as New York improved to 5-0-2 in the last seven meetings against Vancouver.

Brendan Leipsic had a goal and an assist, and Jake Virtanen also scored for the Canucks, who have lost two straight after a 4-0-2 stretch. Jacob Markstrom, starting for the ninth straight game with Anders Nilsson injured, finished with 29 saves.

**DEVILS 4, PENGUINS 2**  
**NEWARK, N.J. (AP)** — Taylor Hall scored the game-winning goal on a breakaway at 8:07 of the third period and added an empty-net tally to lead New Jersey past struggling Pittsburgh. Hall also had two assists, and Travis Zajac and Damon Severson each had a goal and an assist as the Devils snapped a three-game losing streak by beating the Penguins for the second time in just over a week. Keith Kinkaid had 29 saves for New Jersey, which was returning home after a 1-6 trip. Phil Kessel and Jake Guent-

zel scored for the Penguins, who have one win in seven games (1-5-1). Casey De-

Smith had 31 saves in his third straight start.

**MAPLE LEAFS 5, KINGS 1**  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Nazem Kadri scored two power-play goals and John Tavares had a goal and two assists for Toronto. Morgan Rielly and Andreas Johnsson also scored in Toronto's fourth win in five games overall and its seventh win in eight road games this season. Frederik Andersen made 22 saves as the powerful Leafs swept their two-game season series with NHL-worst Los Angeles by a combined 9-2. Adrian Kempe scored for the Kings, who have lost three straight while scoring just two combined goals since winning their debut under interim coach Willie Desjardins last week. The NHL's lowest-scoring team went 3-4-0 on a seven-game homestand. □

## Penguins star Crosby skips practice with upper-body injury



Pittsburgh Penguins center Sidney Crosby (87) attacks on New Jersey Devils goaltender Keith Kinkaid (1) during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018, in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby has skipped practice while being evaluated Wednesday for an upper-body injury.

Coach Mike Sullivan declined to get into specifics about Crosby's injury. Crosby did not miss a shift and played more than 21 minutes during Pittsburgh's 4-2 loss to New Jersey on Tuesday night.

The 31-year-old Crosby is off to an uneven start for the Penguins, with eight goals and 11 assists in 16 games. Pittsburgh has dropped five of six games overall and is 7-6-3 nearly a quarter of the way into the season. The Penguins host Tampa Bay on Thursday night. Pittsburgh shook up its lineup on Wednesday, trading forward Carl Hagelin to Los Angeles for Tanner Pearson. □



# Saints on top of Pro32 poll; KC stays 2nd; Rams up to 3rd

By **SIMMI BUTTAR**

AP Sports Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — For the past two months, the rest of the NFL has tried to slow down Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints.

And no one has been able to figure out how.

The Saints (8-1) rolled to their eighth consecutive victory with a 51-14 pummeling of the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday.

The Saints kept the No. 1 spot in the latest AP Pro32 poll. They received 10 of 12 first-place votes and 382 points in balloting Tuesday by media members who regularly cover the NFL.

The Kansas City Chiefs received the other two first-place votes and remained at No. 2 with 368 points. The Los Angeles Rams were a close third with 366 points. These two 9-1 teams are scheduled to meet on Monday night in a highly anticipated matchup to close Week 11. The game was originally set to be played in Mexico City,



**New Orleans Saints wide receiver Michael Thomas celebrates his touchdown in the first half of an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018, in Cincinnati.**

Associated Press

but because of concerns about the playing field at Azteca Stadium after recent rain and several big events, it was moved to the Coliseum in Los Angeles.

The Pittsburgh Steelers, who have won five in a row, climbed three spots to No.

4. The Steelers (6-2-1) have surged to the top of the AFC North despite the absence of two-time All-Pro running back Le'Veon Bell. Bell missed a 4 p.m. deadline on Tuesday to sign his one-year franchise tender and is ineligible to play this

season.

The Los Angeles Chargers moved up a spot to No.

5. The Chargers (7-2), who have quietly won six in a row, have not garnered much attention despite having one of the top records in the league. In-

stead, the dominance of both the AFC West rival Chiefs and their neighbors in LA, the Rams, has received most of the headlines.

"Shaking off a 1-2 start, the Chargers have remained firmly in KC's rear-view mirror with a well-balanced attack and impactful rookie safety Derwin James," said Ira Kaufman of Fox 13 in Tampa, Florida.

The New England Patriots, who were tied for No. 2 last week, dropped to No. 6 after their 34-10 loss at Tennessee on Sunday. The Titans made a major jump, moving five spots to No. 12. The Patriots (7-3) have a bye this week before facing the New York Jets on Nov. 25.

The Minnesota Vikings (5-3-1) moved up a spot to No. 7 during their bye week and return to action on Sunday night at NFC North rival Chicago. The Bears (6-3) rounded out the top 10 for the second consecutive week. □

## Le'Veon Bell

Continued from Page 17

The unprecedented move sets Bell up for the potentially big-time payday he has long been searching when he becomes a free agent in the spring, provided there's a team willing to splurge on one of the league's more talented if mercurial players.

While TV cameras set up outside the team's practice facility on Tuesday to catch Bell if he decided to show up for work for the first time in nearly 10 months, the 26-year-old never pulled up to the gates, ending — for now — one of the more unusual labor standoffs between a team and a player in the era of free agency.

Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin seemed resigned to Bell's decision shortly before the 4 p.m. deadline, saying simply "so be it" when asked about the possibility of Bell not returning to the team that selected him in the second round of

the 2013 draft and helped mold him into one of the league's most dynamic threats.

"Even when we don't understand it, we're sensitive to it, so we're not shocked when things happen from a business standpoint, no," Tomlin said.

The Steelers (6-2-1), who have won five straight to sprint to the top of the division heading into a visit to Jacksonville on Sunday, will turn to second-year back James Conner and reserves Stevan Ridley and rookie Jaylen Samuels to help shoulder the load with Bell out of the picture.

Conner, third in the NFL with 771 yards rushing, remained in the concussion protocol on Tuesday after leaving last Thursday's blowout win against Carolina but could practice as early as Wednesday.

All season Tomlin stressed he was focused on the players in the locker room and not the ones outside it. He hardly seemed both-



**In this Dec. 25, 2017, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell (26) warms up before an NFL football game against the Houston Texans, in Houston.**

Associated Press

ered by the idea of Pittsburgh's quest for a post-season berth continuing without Bell.

"That train has left the station," Tomlin said. "We're comfortable with how we function, the people at our disposal, the division of labor and our ability to ready ourselves for the challenges."

The Steelers drafted Bell with the 48th overall pick five years ago, won over by his youth, size and ver-

satility. Along with wide receiver Antonio Brown, Bell became the linchpin in which the Steelers rebuilt themselves on the fly as the franchise's identity shifted from away from the defense that fueled three Super Bowl appearances in six years from 2005-2010 toward an offense that ranked among the most explosive in the league.

The makeover relied heavily on Bell, whose patient running style became his

trademark while helping Pittsburgh to four straight playoff berths.

Bell is one of only three players in recent NFL history to be franchise tagged in consecutive seasons. The first two — linebacker Karlos Dansby and quarterback Kirk Cousins — played all 16 games during their second seasons under the tag then went and cashed in elsewhere in free agency.

As his profile rose, Bell insisted he wasn't merely a running back, pointing to his success as a receiver — he finished 10th in the league with 85 catches in 2017 — as proof that he should be paid far above his peers.

When Bell and the Steelers failed to reach an agreement on a new deal last summer, he said "both sides worked extremely hard" in an attempt to get something done. When it didn't happen, he skipped training camp again, just as he did in 2017. His teammates stressed it was no big deal, confident Bell would show up in time for the regular-season opener. □



# Durant leads Warriors over Hawks after Green's suspension

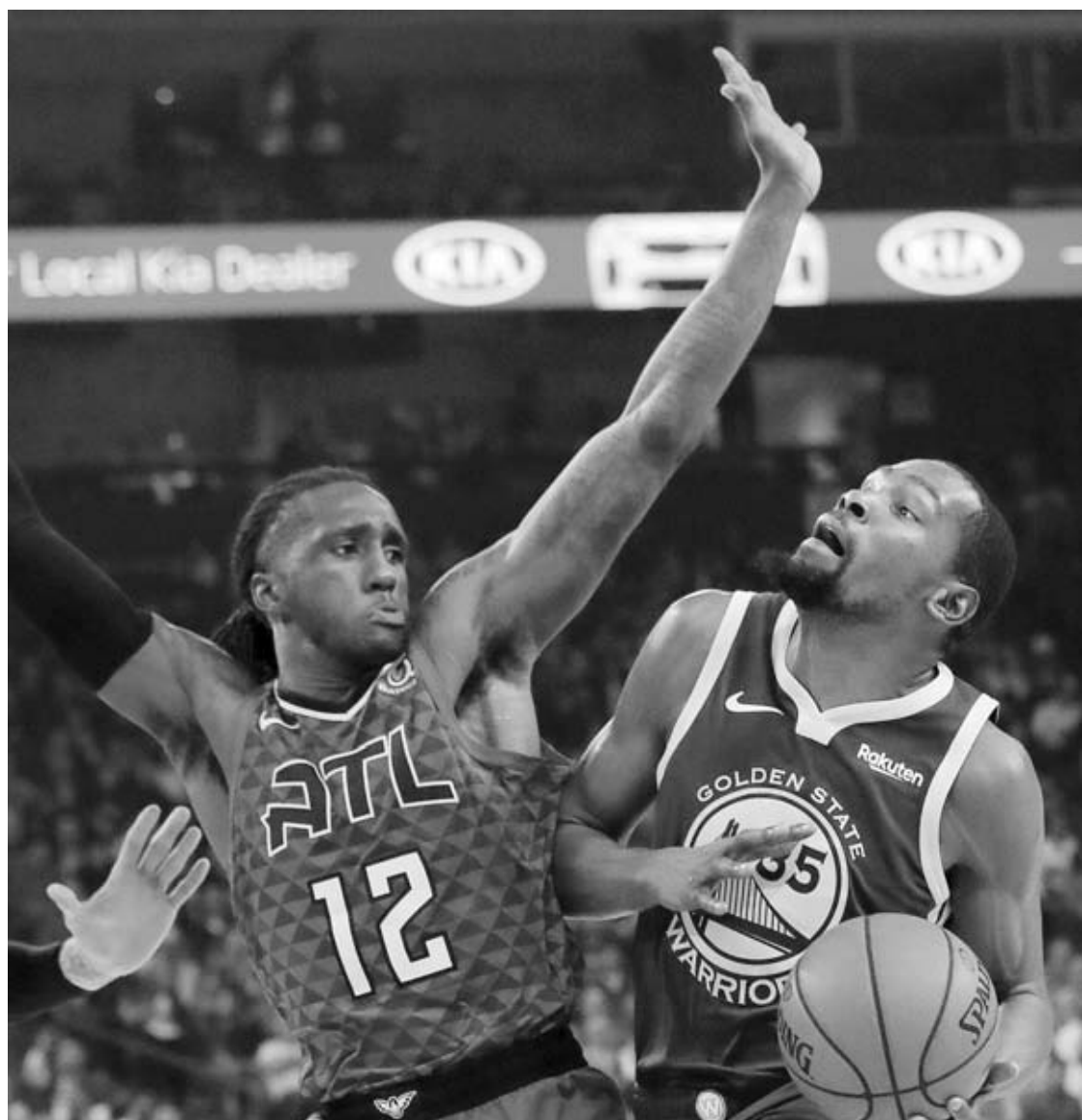
**By The Associated Press**  
**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** —

Kevin Durant scored 29 points with a key jumper in the final minute, a day after a shouting episode on the bench with Draymond Green led to his teammate's suspension Tuesday, and the undermanned Golden State Warriors held off the Atlanta Hawks 110-103.

Klay Thompson added 24 points as Splash Brother Stephen Curry missed his third straight game with a strained left groin. The two-time MVP shuffled and danced as he celebrated big plays from the bench. Taurean Prince scored 22 points, making four 3-pointers and finishing 8 for 14 from the floor in the Hawks' fifth straight loss and ninth in 10.

Durant led the way hours after the Warriors suspended All-Star Green for one game without pay for conduct detrimental to the team. He got into it with Durant on the bench at the end of regulation in a 121-116 overtime road loss to the Clippers and Green wasn't even at the arena Tuesday.

**ROCKETS 109, NUGGETS 99**  
**DENVER (AP)** — James Harden scored 19 of his 22 points in the second half and Houston pulled away to beat Denver, sending the Nuggets to a fourth straight loss. Harden also had 11 assists, with several going to Clint Capela, who led the Rockets with 24 points, including a series of dunks. Chris Paul added 21 points for



**Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots against Atlanta Hawks forward Taurean Prince (12) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018.**

Associated Press

points midway through the fourth quarter but Harden went on a tear, scoring 11 straight Houston points to put the Rockets up 104-91 with 3:48 remaining.

**CAVALIERS 113, HORNETS 89**

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Jordan Clarkson scored 24 points, Tristan Thompson had 21 rebounds and 11 points, and injury-riddled Cleveland won for the second time this season, beating Charlotte.

The Cavaliers (2-11) broke a five-game losing streak. Cleveland's first win came against Atlanta on Oct. 30. Kemba Walker, the league's third-leading scorer, was held to a season-low seven points and was 2 for 16 from the field. The Hornets star guard was averaging 27.9 points going into the game.

Rodney Hood scored 16 points for Cleveland, which built a double-figure lead midway through the first quarter and maintained that the rest of the game. Rookie point guard Collin Sexton scored 16 points and had five assists. David Nwaba scored 18 points off the bench. □

## Atlanta United's Martino voted MLS coach of year

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Gerardo "Tata" Martino was voted coach of the year in Major League Soccer on Tuesday in his last season with Atlanta United.

Martino guided Atlanta through another record-breaking season. Backed by record crowds, Atlanta United won a playoff series for the first time by beating New York City FC in the Eastern Conference semifinals. Atlanta will play the New York Red Bulls in the first leg of the conference final Nov. 25.

Martino, the former Barcelona and Argentina national coach, is leaving Atlanta after the playoffs. He reportedly is headed to Mexico's national team.



**In this Aug. 24, 2018, file photo, Atlanta United MLS soccer team head coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino directs his players during the second half of a match against Orlando City, in Orlando, Fla.**

Associated Press

Martino received 32.7 percent of the votes by MLS team officials, players and

media. Bob Bradley of Los Angeles FC was second at 22.34 percent. □

## Gabe Kapler loses home in California wildfires

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Phillies manager Gabe Kapler is among the homeowners who lost their house in Southern California's wildfires.

Kapler told The Athletic his ex-wife and two sons lived in the Malibu house and evacuated last week. A friend sent him photos over the weekend showing only a steel staircase remained of the property, about a mile from the Pacific Ocean.

Kapler moved to Philadelphia after the Phillies hired him last October, but kept the house for his family. He led the Phillies to an 80-82 record in his first season. □



# Dufner does the math in determining success rate

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga.

(AP) — Jason Dufner scanned down both sides of the crowded practice range Tuesday at Sea Island as he tried to find a spot to practice.

So many players, even if he doesn't know all their names.

And so few trophies.

It was another reminder to Dufner that golf has a failure rate unlike most other sports.

The PGA Tour had 648 players tee it up in at least one tournament last year, and only 37 players went home with a trophy. Consider the winners-only start to the calendar year at Kapalua. From the 34-man field in January, 25 players have not made it back.

It doesn't take an economics degree from Auburn to figure out that winning isn't easy.

Dufner, who has such a degree, came up with his own version of success on the PGA Tour that at first glance seems outrageous. "You win 2 percent of your tournaments, you probably have a Hall of Fame career," Dufner said. "You throw in a major and win 2 percent of your tournaments, and you're certainly in the Hall of Fame."

Maybe he had Fred Couples or Mark O'Meara in mind.

Couples won 2.4 percent of



In this Wednesday July 18, 2018 file photo, Tiger Woods plays a shot on the 12th fairway as Jason Dufner looks on during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf Championship in Carnoustie, Scotland.

Associated Press

his career starts on the PGA Tour, along with the 1992 Masters. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame five years ago. O'Meara won 2.4 percent of his PGA Tour events, plus two majors in 1998.

He was inducted two years later. Another example is Davis Love III, who has won 2.6 percent of his tournaments with one major and was inducted last year.

Hall of Fame standards are hard to determine now because a 16-person panel of mostly golf administrators talk among themselves be-

fore voting who should get in.

But the standard isn't what it once was, nor should it be with a talent pool that is getting deeper with every year.

It's getting harder to win. That didn't stop nine players from winning at least twice last season on the PGA Tour — Brooks Koepka, Dustin Johnson, Justin Thomas and Bryson DeChambeau each won three times — but in Dufner's eyes, those are either exceptional players or exceptional years, sometimes both.

Dufner won twice in one season in 2012, the year before he won the PGA Championship. He now has five victories in 314 starts. That equates to winning 1.6 percent of his PGA Tour starts with one major. So the Hall of Fame is not in the picture.

"I better get going," Dufner said with a laugh.

One measure of difficulty is who didn't win this year, a list that includes Jordan Spieth, Hideki Matsuyama and Henrik Stenson, who all started the year among the top 10 players in the world.

Another measure is who ended long droughts.

The most famous is Tiger Woods, an exception in many cases. His victory at the Tour Championship was his first since 2013, and it followed four surgeries on his back. Phil Mickelson in Mexico City won for the first time since 2013. Matt Kuchar won last week at Mayakoba, his first on the PGA Tour since 2014. Keegan Bradley, whose two victories as a rookie included the PGA Championship, won the BMW Championship for his first PGA Tour title since 2012.

Former U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson crushed the field at The Players Championship for his first victory since 2013.

The key ingredient in Dufner's model, of course, is playing long enough so that winning 2 percent of tournaments actually means something.

And those who last that long usually build up scar tissue from all the times they failed to win.

Losing happens a lot.

Justin Rose and Johnson are among those who have made winning a habit. Johnson has won every calendar year since 2008 on the PGA Tour except for 2014.

Rose has won every year since 2010 except for 2016, though he won Olympic gold in Rio de Janeiro that summer. □

## LPGA announces changes to points race, purse for 2019 finale

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Sports Writer

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — The Race to the CME Globe will be more frantic starting next year, and the winner of the LPGA Tour's season-ending tournament is going to get considerably richer.

Tour and event officials announced Tuesday night that the CME Group Tour Championship's purse in 2019 will double to \$5 million, with the winner getting \$1.5 million — the largest first-place share in women's golf history.

The biggest winner's check

and purse on the LPGA Tour this season were both at the U.S. Women's Open, where Ariya Jutanugarn won \$900,000 of the \$5 million total purse.

"To think that the best players in the world won't be paying more attention to the CME Group Tour Championship next year would be wrong," LPGA Tour Commissioner Mike Whan said.

There's another key change for next season, in that all the points in the season-long Race to the CME Globe will be thrown out before the finale.

There are 12 players out of 72 in the field at Tiburon Golf Club this week with a chance to win the Globe, and five of those 12 are assured to hoist the trophy if they win Sunday. The other seven players can win the Globe through various scenarios, many of which are complex.

Next year, it's very simple: The top 60 players in the points race, including ties, will qualify for the finale. Points then get thrown out entirely, and the tournament winner — whether she was ranked No. 1 or No. 60 coming into the

event — will win the Globe. Players are applauding bigger purses. The format change isn't exactly getting unanimous approval.

"I was a little disappointed, just that they were getting rid of the season-long race," said Brooke Henderson of Canada, one of the five women who would clinch the Globe automatically with a win this week. "I think that was a good motivation for a lot of players to win a lot of events. ... But at the same time, it's really exciting to know that we have a ginormous purse in one tournament."

Whan said the credit for the change goes to CME Group chairman and CEO Terry Duffy, who was the one who came up with the idea to double the purse and change the format for the Globe finale.

"I want anybody to be able to win this," Duffy said. "That's what really makes it exciting for the fans."

This year's tournament starts Thursday. Henderson, Ariya Jutanugarn, Minjee Lee, Nasa Hataoka and Sung Hyun Park are the five who are assured of winning the Globe if they win the tournament. □



# Oakland's Melvin, Atlanta's Snitker voted top managers

By **RONALD BLUM**, AP Baseball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Bob Melvin's job was a lot different as a rookie manager with Seattle in 2002, and even when he was voted Manager of the Year with Arizona in 2007 and Oakland in 2012.

"Organizations and certainly front offices are more a part of it now, and you have to understand that," Melvin said Tuesday after winning his third manager award.

Melvin won the American League honor after leading the Athletics to the playoffs despite the lowest opening-day payroll in the major leagues.

Atlanta's Brian Snitker won the National League award following a surprising first-place finish, a reward for a 63-year-old baseball lifer who has spent 42 seasons with the Braves. He thought back to how he returned to the minor leagues in 1986, 1991 and 2004 after stints on the staff of the big league Braves.

"Hey, I've been recycled three times from the major leagues as a coach," he said. "Everything that I've been through I think has prepared me better to understand what these guys go through and what this job entails."

A big league catcher from 1985-94, Melvin became a



In this Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017 file photo, Oakland Athletics manager Bob Melvin, left, poses for a portrait in Mesa, Ariz; and in this Friday, Aug. 3, 2018 file photo, Atlanta Braves manager Brian Snitker, right, looks on from the dugout before a baseball game against the New York Mets in New York.

scout, instructor, front office assistant and coach before he got his first big league managing job in 2002 from Mariners general manager Pat Gillick, a future Hall of Famer. Now he works for Oakland executives Billy Beane and Dave Forst, proponents of the analytics movement that has swept baseball.

"When I started doing this a long time ago with Mr. Gillick in Seattle, their job was to give me the players and then it was my job to put guys in the right spots. And things have changed since then," Melvin said. "It can be a little bit top heavy as far as where the information comes from, from our front office now, and you have to be able to adapt, or at some point in time you might not have one

of these jobs. So I'm lucky enough to be with an organization that not only it's my hometown but from a guy that I've known for quite a while in Billy and they do the best they can to consistently try to implement stuff and get us better. And it's my job to accept it and move forward."

Melvin received 18 first-place votes, 19 seconds and one third for 121 points from the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He is the eighth manager to win three or more times and is one shy of the record shared by Bobby Cox and Tony La Russa.

His A's went 97-65, a 22-win improvement over 2017, even with a \$68.6 million payroll when the season began. They overcame a 34-36 start to go a big



league-best from June 16 on, even though Jharel Cotton, A.J. Puk, Sean Manaea, Kendall Graveman, Brett Anderson, Andrew Triggs and several other starting pitchers got hurt. They lost to the New York Yankees in the AL wild-card game.

"At the beginning, we were at little bit taken aback by the fact that we lost so many guys early on," Melvin said, "but I think after that it was more kind of a badge of honor that someone goes down, we have to continue to have expectations to win and know we have depth in our organization and it's next man up."

Boston's Alex Cora was second with seven firsts and 79 points after leading the Red Sox to a team-record 108 wins. Tampa Bay's Kevin

Cash was next with five firsts and 57 points. The Rays' innovation of using a reliever as an "opener" was copied by other teams later in the season, including Oakland. "Based on the fact that we had so many starters go down and our bullpen was our strength, we were looking for ways to potentially get better," Melvin said. "Certainly watching what they did over there and the success they had was partly one of the reasons we looked at it."

Snitker received 17 firsts, nine seconds and one third for 116 points, the only manager picked on every NL ballot.

Milwaukee's Craig Counsell was second with 11 firsts and for 99 points. Colorado's Bud Black was third with 41 points. □

Associated Press

# Japan beats MLB All-Stars 6-5 to clinch exhibition series

By **JIM ARMSTRONG**  
AP Sports Writer

**NAGOYA, Japan (AP)** — Takuya Kai hit a go-ahead double off Dan Otero in the eighth inning, capping a comeback from a four-run deficit that led Japan over the MLB All-Stars 6-5 Wednesday and clinched the six-game exhibition series 4-1.

Down 5-1, Japan tied the score with a four-run seventh against Hector Velazquez.

Kai started the comeback with an RBI single in the seventh, and Velazquez threw wildly into center field for a run-scoring error

on Kazuki Tanaka's comebacker.

Pinch-hitter Hotaka Yamakawa followed with a two-run double.

Seiji Uebayashi singled with two outs in the eighth off Otero, who took the loss, and scored from first on Kai's double.

Winner Yu Sato struck out two in a hitless eighth, and Yuki Matsui worked around Juan Soto's lead-off single in the ninth for the save.

"They did a nice job of battling our guys and putting the ball in play," MLB manager Don Mattingly said. "They had a number



All Japan catcher Takuya Kai, second from right, celebrates with teammates after beating MLB All-Stars 6-5 in Game 5 at their All-Stars Series baseball at Nagoya Dome in Nagoya, central Japan, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

of hits the opposite way and they've gotten big hits. You know, there isn't any way to go around it, they did a nice job."

MLB starter Junior Guerra allowed one run in five innings, a second-inning home run by Kazuma Okamoto.

Japan starter Nao Higashihama gave up three runs and six hits in three innings. Rhys Hoskins hit two-run homer in the second, Soto had an RBI single in the third, and Carlos Santana had an RBI single in the sixth.

The final game is Thursday at the Nagoya Dome. □



## Nigerian ISP's configuration error disrupted Google services

By **FRANK BAJAK**, *Associated Press*

**BOSTON (AP)** — A Nigerian internet service provider said Tuesday that a configuration error it made during a network upgrade caused a disruption of key Google services, routing traffic to China and Russia.

Even with MainOne's explanation, there was speculation that Monday's 74-minute data hijacking might not have been an accident.

Google's search, cloud hosting and corporate-focused G-Suite collaborative tools were among services disrupted.

"Everyone is pretty confident that nothing untoward took place," MainOne spokesman Tayo Ashiru said.

But Jake Williams, president of Rendition InfoSec and a former U.S. government hacker, said a skeptic



In this Monday, Nov. 5, 2018, photo, a woman carries a fire extinguisher past the logo for Google at the China International Import Expo in Shanghai.

should not rule out meddling by a nation-state with something to gain. The level of corruption in a country

like Nigeria is well known, he said.

The type of traffic misdirection involved can knock es-

sential services offline and facilitate espionage and financial theft.

It can also be used to block access to information by sending data requests into internet black holes. Experts say China, in particular, has systematically hijacked and diverted U.S. internet traffic.

But the problem can also result from human error. It's very difficult to tell the difference, said Williams.

Google said it had no reason to believe the traffic hijacking was malicious.

Ashiru said engineers at MainOne, a major west African ISP, mistakenly forwarded to China Telecom addresses for Google services that were supposed to be local. The Chinese company, in turn, sent along the bad data to Russia's TransTelecom, a major internet presence. Ashiru said MainOne did not yet understand why China Telecom did that, as the state-run company normally doesn't allow Google traffic on its network.

The traffic diversion into China created a detour with a dead end, preventing users from accessing the affected Google services, said Alex Henthorn-Iwane, an executive at the network-intelligence company ThousandEyes.

He said Monday's incident offered yet another lesson

in the internet's susceptibility to "unpredictable and destabilizing events. If this could happen to a company with the scale and resources available that Google has, realize it could happen to anyone."

The diversion, known as border gateway protocol route hijacking, is built into the internet, which was designed for collaboration by trusted parties — not competition by hostile nation-states. Experts say it is fixable but that would require investments in encrypted routers that the industry has resisted.

ThousandEyes said the diversion at minimum made Google's search and business collaboration tools difficult or impossible to reach and "put valuable Google traffic in the hands of ISPs in countries with a long history of Internet surveillance."

Most network traffic to Google services — 94 percent as of Oct. 27 — is encrypted, which shields it from prying eyes even if diverted. But work was interrupted on services like G-Suite, which Google CEO Sundar Pichai in February said had more than 4 million businesses as customers.

G-Suite and Google Cloud combined generate about \$4 billion in revenue each year.

Google did not quantify the disruption other than to say in a statement that "access to some Google services was impacted."

Indeed, the phenomenon has occurred before. Google was briefly afflicted in 2015 when an Indian provider stumbled. In perhaps the best-known case, Pakistan Telecom inadvertently hijacked YouTube's global traffic in 2008 for a few hours when it was trying to enforce a domestic ban. It sent all YouTube traffic into a virtual ditch in Pakistan.

In two recent cases, such rerouting has affected financial sites.

In April 2017, one affected MasterCard and Visa among other sites. This past April, another hijacking enabled cryptocurrency theft. □

## Volkswagen to devote 3 German plants to electric car push

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)**

— German automaker Volkswagen will convert three factories in Germany to manufacture electric cars, ramping up production of zero-local emission cars ahead of tougher European emissions standards, the company said Wednesday.

Wolfsburg-based Volkswagen said Wednesday that it would begin local production of electric-powered vehicles at its facilities in Emden and Hannover in 2022. A plant in Zwickau was designated previously for e-car production.

Volkswagen personnel head Gunnar Kilian said that workers were given a jobs guarantee through 2028, but that the company would work to reduce positions "in a socially responsible way" since electrics require fewer production steps.

Analysts say carmakers will need to add electric cars to their sales lineups to meet the new European Union rules on greenhouse gas emissions from 2021. Volkswagen and other car



In this March 8, 2018 file photo, Volkswagen cars are pictured during a final quality control at the Volkswagen plant in Wolfsburg, Germany.

makers had bet heavily on diesel models, which get better mileage than gasoline-powered vehicles, to meet tough limits on emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas scientists say causes global warming. Diesel sales in Europe have eroded, however, since Volkswagen was caught using software to cheat on diesel emissions tests and paid more than 28 billion euros (\$31 billion) in fines, settlements and penalties. Subsequent scrutiny of diesel technology showed that other carmakers' vehi-

cle emitted more nitrogen oxide pollution in real-life driving than during tests. The EU introduced new test procedures Sept. 1 that are intended to measure emissions in daily driving conditions.

As diesel sales fall, carmakers are turning to electric vehicles to meet the new CO2 limits, even though consumer uptake has been slow because of higher costs and lack of convenient places to charge up. Battery electric cars were 0.6 percent of EU auto sales last year. □

**Associated Press**



# Macy's charges into the holiday shopping season like a boss

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Macy's is heading into the crucial holiday season firing on all cylinders, logging its fourth consecutive quarter of sales growth at existing locations and getting strong reactions from customers both online and in its stores. The company also lifted its expectations for annual earnings on Wednesday. Department stores like Macy's are under intense pressure to reinvent themselves with so many shoppers migrating online or just spending money elsewhere, choosing to be pampered at a spa or traveling.

Fortunately, Macy's and other retailers are doing so in the midst of a strong job market and robust economy, giving them more breathing room with shoppers feeling confident about splurging once in a while.

Macy's, along with other stores, also have benefited from the misfortunes of others. Toys R Us and Bon-Ton



In this May 16, 2018, file photo, traffic makes its way past the Macy's flagship store in New York. Macy's Inc. reports earnings Wednesday, Nov. 14.

have liquidated. Sears Holdings Corp., which operates Sears and Kmart stores, filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy last month. And J.C. Penney is floundering. Macy's says it's seeing increased business in the Midwest where Bon-Ton used to operate and

it's aggressively courting its customers.

But Macy's focus is solidly on Macy's. It's been expanding its store label brands to differentiate itself from rivals. It's also adding more of its off-price Backstage stores and putting

into place technology that allows customers to skip the line at the register.

It's rolling out multiple layers of technology to offer people something they can't get online, such as the use of virtual reality in its furniture and cosmetics

sections. The company's revamped loyalty card program has helped keep its best customers engaged.

And it's trying to become more nimble. Macy's acquired Story, a concept store, which rotates themes and what it sells every few months.

It brought Story founder Rachel Shechtman aboard to help create a more vibrant shopping experience at Macy's.

And in a more radical maneuver, the company is shrinking in order to grow.

After closing more than 100 stores over the past several years, it's going to see how cluster of smaller stores work with today's customers.

The company released details of the new footprint to the Wall Street Journal earlier this week.

CEO Jeff Gennette told industry analysts Wednesday that it's testing four different models for the new "neighborhood stores" format and promised to share details early next year. □

Associated Press

## Energy agency: Global oil supply jumps, sending prices lower

By DAVID McHUGH

Associated Press

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)**

— The International Energy Agency said Wednesday that global oil supplies are growing rapidly as Saudi Arabia, the United States and Russia pump more oil in response to fears of higher prices as a result of renewed U.S. sanctions on Iran.

The IEA said in its monthly report that October output rose by 2.6 million barrels a day to 100.7 million barrels as producers heeded warnings that looming U.S. sanctions could mean a loss of Iranian oil to the market and thus lead to higher prices.

But when President Donald Trump imposed sanctions Nov. 5, he issued six-month waivers for some of Iran's biggest oil customers.

That helped send prices



This Wednesday, May 9, 2012 file photo, shows a drilling rig near Kennedy, Texas.

lower. Brent crude is trading below \$70 per barrel, down from a four-year high above \$86 per barrel in early October.

Brent prices rose 0.6 percent on Wednesday to \$65.86 at 1115 GMT (6:13 a.m. EST).

The Paris-based agency welcomed the higher production and stockpiles, saying that the response to the call by the IEA and

others to boost production "is a reminder that the oil industry works best when it works together."

The agency said that lower prices "are clearly a benefit to consumers," especially those in developing countries who are seeing higher fuel prices due to weak national currencies. Oil is priced in dollars and the U.S. currency has been strong of late. □

Associated Press

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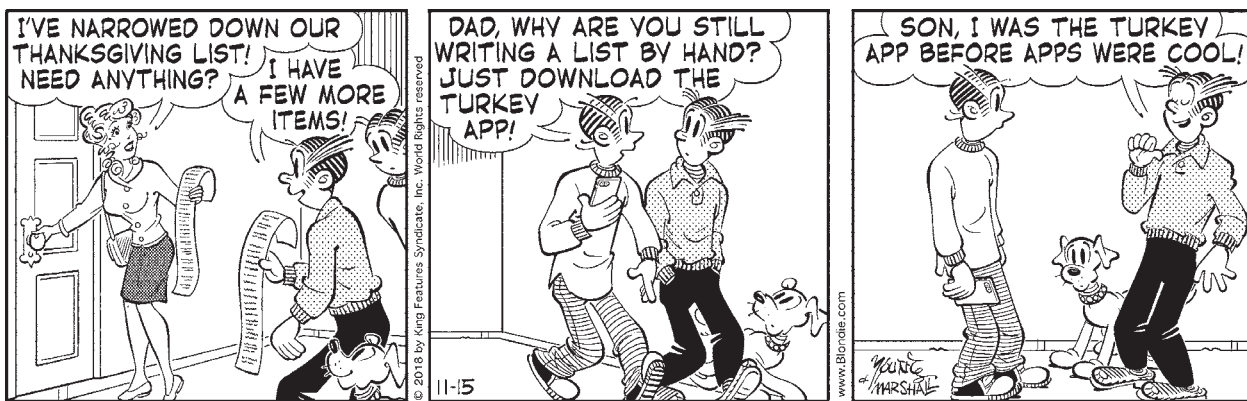
## Mutts



## 6 Chix



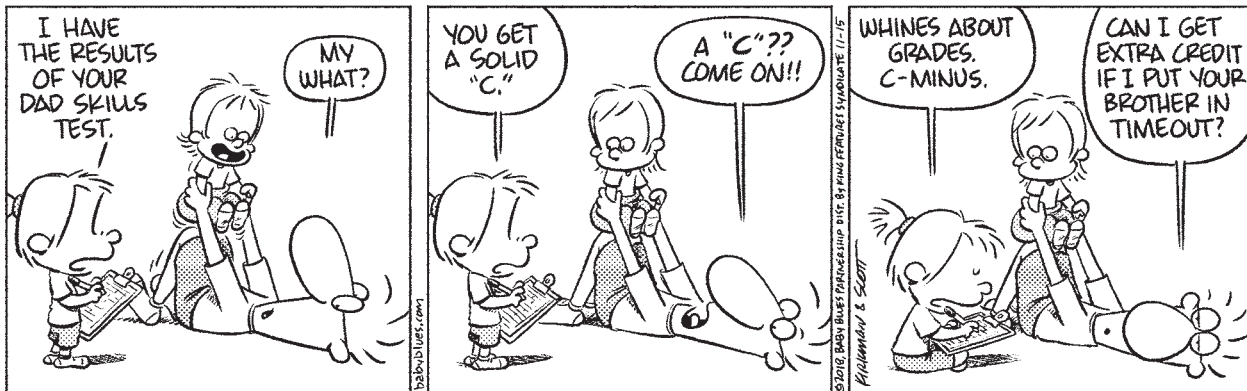
## Blondie



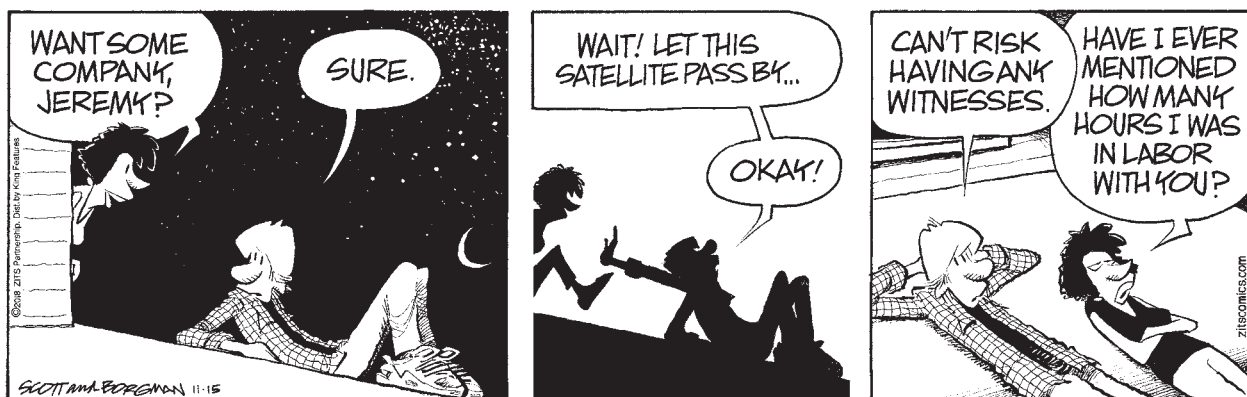
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

8				3	5			7
	9	7	4			6	1	
2				5			4	
1								8
	8			4				5
	4	6			9	2	8	
7			6	2				4

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/15

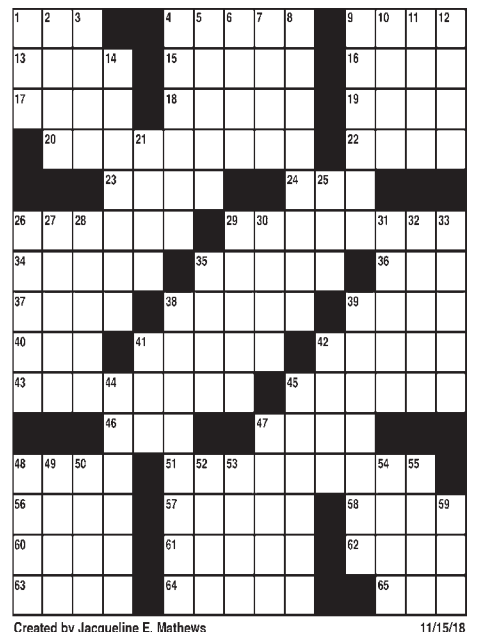
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	4	3	2	8	7	5	6	9
2	8	5	6	9	3	1	4	7
6	9	7	4	1	5	2	3	8
8	6	9	1	5	4	7	2	3
7	1	2	8	3	9	4	5	6
3	5	4	7	2	6	9	8	1
9	7	8	5	6	2	3	1	4
4	2	1	3	7	8	6	9	5
5	3	6	9	4	1	8	7	2

## ACROSS

- to; increase
- Remove the lid from
- Egg on
- Common metal
- Fanny pack, e.g.
- No longer valid
- Knock down a building
- Hole sealant
- Bird's bill
- Fatigue
- Likelihood
- Decomposes
- "Be Home for Christmas"
- Offbeat
- Time off
- Insensitive
- Old Roman robes
- Color
- Family tree member
- Starbucks edible
- Facts & figures
- Calif's location
- On the; honest
- Grandeur
- Linear measures
- Blushing
- Bluefin or albacore
- Wingless insect
- Rather pushy
- Incite
- Wanderer
- Turn over a new; reform
- Take on employees
- Weight revealer
- Lasso loop
- Belgrade resident
- Hotels
- Rile
- Fraternity letter



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/15/18

## 4 Arrogant

- Parts of speech
- as a button
- Play divisions
- Complete medical exam
- Loosen a thick screw
- Kicked oneself for
- Happy
- Forest animals
- Closest
- Arguments
- Spanish article
- Weight revealer
- Mean
- Kitchen appliance
- In; stylish
- Middle; historical period
- "a dream..." (MLK speech)
- External
- Patricia & her family
- Powder, for short

## Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

LABS	FANS	SCAN
EQUAL	LION	HOB
SURGE	ERRONEOUS	
SAD	AMA	WEALTH
ELVES	BAR	
DANIEL	WARSAW	
IBSEN	POOLS	BAD
GOOD	GRUEL	TOGA
SUM	SLOTS	DOMES
TESTED	PERISH	
TOA	DEMON	
STREAM	UNO	ACT
TREATISES	TABLE	
OINK	NEAT	ELLEN
POTS	GARY	LEFT

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11/15/18

## DOWN

- Broadcast
- a blank; have a senior moment
- Nod off

- Cut of pork
- Deserve; merit
- In just a bit
- Air pollution
- Pence, for short
- All; listening
- J. Edgar Hoover's agcy.



## The latest in bling: Selfie with a lion cub and a sport car



This photo provided Wednesday Nov.14, 2018 by Fondation 30 Millions d'Amis (30 Million Friends Foundation) shows a lion cub found by police in a Lamborghini on Paris' famed Champs-Elysees avenue, Monday, Nov. 12, 2018 in Paris.

Associated Press

By JOHN LEICESTER

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — When Paris police officers found a lion cub in a Lamborghini during a traffic stop this week, they exposed the tip of what animal campaigners say is a bizarre and disturbing new trend: People buying or renting cubs to take bling-bling selfie photos of themselves with a baby big cat.

The cub, named Putin but known as Dadou, is less than two months old and likely would have died of poor care had police not stopped the luxury sports car Monday on the Champs-Elysees and rescued the cat, according to 30 Million Friends, the French animal protection

NGO now caring for it.

"There are hundreds of babies going around like this illegally," the group's president, Reha Hutin, said in an Associated Press interview Wednesday. "You can buy a cub for less than a dog. It costs 300 euros (340 dollars) and so they buy them off circuses."

Hutin believes the fad spread to France from Gulf countries. The NGO works with a sanctuary in Jordan for abandoned felines. Wealthy people in the Gulf pose with baby cubs and "take photographs of themselves in the car," she said. "Once they grow up they're just thrown out,"

"What's terrible (is) it's coming to France. We've literally saved four babies

in the last six months because they are copying those guys."

Not just to France. Another lion cub is adjusting to life in a Dutch big cat center after a jogger ran into it last month in a cage dumped in a field in the central Netherlands.

The NGO is suing the driver of the sports car, who was taken into custody after police found the cub. Paris police confirmed the find and the arrest.

Sports cars are often offered for hire on the Champs-Elysees, for tourists to take short, high-adrenaline rides on the famous avenue and surrounding streets. □

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November 15

Carnival Conquest

Carnival Ecstasy

Seven Seas Navigator

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# No accounting for these tastes: Artificial flavors a mystery

By **CANDICE CHOI**  
AP Food & Health Writer  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Six artificial flavors are being

ordered out of the food supply in a dispute over their safety, but good luck to anyone who wants to know which cookies, candies or drinks they're in. The dispute highlights the complex rules that govern what goes in our food, how much the public knows about it, and a mysterious class of ingredients that has evolved over decades largely outside of public view.

On food packages, hundreds of ingredients are listed simply as natural flavor or artificial flavor. Even in minute amounts, they help make potato chips taste oniony or give fruit candy that twang.

"The food system we have is unimaginable without flavor additives," said Nadia Berenstein, a historian of flavor science based in New York.

The flavors are also at the center of a dispute over how ingredients should be regulated.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is giving companies two years to purge their products of six artificial flavors — even though the FDA made clear it believes the ingredients are safe in the trace amounts they are used.

The six artificial flavors in question, with names like methyl eugenol, benzophenone, ethyl acrylate and pyridine, are used to create cinnamon or spicy notes, fruity or minty flavors, or even hints of balsamic vinegar.

The FDA and the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association, an industry group, did not respond when asked for examples

of products the six ingredients are used in. But they noted in statements that



This Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018 photo shows part of an ingredient label, which lists "artificial flavoring," on a packet of candy in New York.

the compounds have natural counterparts in foods like basil, coffee, grapes and peppermint, and that the action does not affect the naturally derived versions.

The FDA said it had to order the artificial versions out of the food supply because of a lawsuit brought by consumer advocacy groups that cited a 60-year-old regulation known as the Delaney clause. The rule prohibits additives shown to have caused cancer in animals, even if tested at doses far higher than what a person would consume. In a statement, the flavor industry group said the Delaney Clause doesn't allow regulators to assess an ingredient's risk based on modern scientific understanding, but that changing it would require an act of Congress. As far back as 1981, the Government Ac-

countability Office issued a report saying the clause should be re-examined be-

"artificial flavor," he said people don't know in what concentrations they're

cause of its inflexibility. Christopher Kemp, a professor of cancer biology at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, doesn't think the rule is necessarily too strict a threshold. He said animal studies provide the strongest evidence about cancer risk in humans, and that it is better to err on the side of caution.

Erik Olson of the Natural Resources Defense Council, one of the groups that sued over the six ingredients, said it's also unknown what effect they might have when used in combination with other ingredients. And since they're listed only as

used in particular products. "It's all secret. You can't pick up an ice cream or chewing gum or a baked good and have any idea what chemicals are in there," he said. Berenstein, the flavor science historian, said the ingredients in flavors don't have to be specified in part because regulators decided long ago that listing the names of compounds on packages might just confuse people. And she stressed that flavors are used in infinitesimal amounts. In 2015, the flavor industry estimates just 40 pounds of one of the now banned artificial ingredients was produced.

But Bernstein said a more robust regulatory system might inspire greater public confidence about flavors. In a separate but related lawsuit, the FDA is also facing a challenge over its oversight of the universe of ingredients companies can put into foods, including artificial flavors. New flavors, sweeteners and other ingredients can go through an FDA petition process to be approved as food additives. But another option lets manufacturers deem their own ingredients to be "generally recognized as safe." There's no clear rule for when ingredients should take one path or the other. The artificial sweetener Splenda is an approved food additive. Another sweetener, stevia, was declared GRAS by manufacturers. The six artificial flavors in question were approved food additives, along with dozens of other synthetic flavors.

The flavor industry group also regularly declares other ingredients like them to be GRAS, without formal review by the FDA. Critics say GRAS determinations were meant for basic ingredients like salt and vinegar, not highly engineered ingredients. The advocacy groups suing the FDA say the GRAS option has turned into a loophole that lets companies approve all sorts of ingredients without public scrutiny, including artificial flavors. In September, a judge allowed the legal challenge to move forward. □

Associated Press

## Handwritten Einstein letter auctioned off for nearly \$40,000

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — A handwritten letter written by Albert Einstein warning of the dangers of growing nationalism and anti-Semitism years before the Nazis rose to power has been sold for nearly \$40,000. The Kedem Auction House says the previously unknown letter, brought forward by an anonymous collector, fetched \$39,360 in bidding in Jerusalem on Tuesday night. Einstein wrote the let-

ter to his sister after going into hiding in 1922 following the assassination of Germany's Jewish foreign minister by right-wing extremists. Police had warned the Jewish scientist that his life could be in danger too. "Here are brewing economically and politically dark times, so I'm happy to be able to get away from everything," he wrote. Kedem says the letter was sold at roughly double its expected price. □



This undated photo released by the Kedem Auction House, shows a copy of a 1922 letter Albert Einstein wrote to his beloved younger sister, Maja. Associated Press

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## Michelle Obama begins arena tour in talk with Oprah

By MICHAEL TARM

Associated Press

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Michelle Obama began her 12-stop book tour Tuesday by sitting with Oprah Winfrey before an audience at the home arena of the Chicago Bulls, speaking on everything from piano lessons and washing socks to crying on a plane the day her family moved out of the White House and President Donald Trump moved in. The crowd of 14,000 roared as the former first lady stepped onto a stage at the sold-out United Center event, which felt part talk show, part political rally and part rock concert, complete with \$35 Michele Obama T-shirts emblazoned with her face and the title of her just-released memoir, "Becoming." Family pictures of Barack Obama and their children flashed on a screen over her shoulder as she spoke.

During the more than 90-minute conversation under Bulls' NBA championship banners in Obama's home city, she never directly criticized Trump. Crying on the plane leaving Washington on Inau-



Michelle Obama, right, is greeted by Oprah Winfrey to discuss her new book during an intimate conversation to promote "Becoming" at the United Center on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018, in Chicago.

Associated Press

guration Day 2017, she explained, had nothing to do with Trump.

"When I got on the plane, I sobbed for 30 minutes," she said. "I think it was just the release of eight years trying to do everything perfectly." Obama turned to her husband, who had just become a former president.

"I said to Barack, 'That was so hard, what we just did. That was so hard.'" She said she didn't mention that episode in her book.

She didn't criticize Trump directly at the event despite direct criticism of him in her book.

She writes in "Becoming" that Trump's "loud and reck-

less innuendos" about her husband's birth certificate stirred people up and put "my family's safety at risk." And for this," she adds, "I'd never forgive him."

Trump responded last week, saying Michelle Obama "got paid a lot of money" to write that book and they always expect a

little controversy." The current president said that he'd never forgive his predecessor for making the country "very unsafe."

When Winfrey, who selected "Becoming" for her influential book club, introduced Obama she referred to the divisive political climate, also without directly naming Trump.

"So many people are feeling uneasy... afraid of the impending darkness," Winfrey told the audience. "But you all being here tonight is a testament to the light."

"Becoming" describes Obama's upbringing on Chicago's South Side and her transition to college at Princeton University.

As she does in her book, she recounted Tuesday being raised in a family that struggled economically — but with parents who encouraged her to be successful. When she was a child, she said her dad would complain to her mother that she wasn't teaching her children how to wash socks, because he had had so few socks growing up that he had to wash them and dry them on a radiator himself. □

## Glamour magazine honors Teigen, Monae, Gonzalez and Raisman

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON

Associated Press

**NEW YORK CITY (AP)** — Powerful and influential women from all walks of life smiled and hugged at the 2018 Glamour Women of the Year Awards on Monday, but the devastating wildfires on the other side of the country were on a lot of minds.

Actress Alicia Silverstone had first-hand knowledge of how devastating the fires are. "I know a lot of people who were affected and evacuated and some are still holding ground and not leaving. It's really bad," she said.

"This is happening because we have a problem: global warming, and we must address it. We've been talking about this for a very long time. Brilliant scientists



Student activists Emma Gonzalez, left, Jaclyn Corin, Edna Chavez, Naomi Wadler and Sam Fuentes attend the Glamour Women of the Year Awards at Spring Studios on Monday, Nov. 12, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

have been talking about this for a very long time. We have a very short win-

dow where we can make change so must do it." The awards — celebrat-

ing "game changers, rule breakers and trailblazers" — included honorees such

as Chrissy Teigen, Janelle Monae, Emma Gonzalez and Aly Raisman, as well as presenters such as Claire Danes, John Legend, Lupita Nyong'o and Padma Lakshmi. MJ Rodriguez, who presented Monae's award, said being around so many strong women was encouraging. "I get to be around women who have implemented so much change in the world, not only through their art, but through their works, their action," Rodriguez said. "So, to be around strong women like that, it makes me feel like I'm doing something right."

Another woman getting high praise, although not in attendance, was former first lady Michelle Obama. Monae said she can't wait to read her new memoir, "Becoming." □



# 'Green Book' is sure to put a smile on your face

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
**Associated Press**

If there is a big studio movie that's more generally crowd-pleasing than "Green Book" this season, I have yet to find it. In this landscape of challenging, provocative, edgy films, Viggo Mortensen, Mahershala Ali and, of all people, director Peter Farrelly have come along with a movie about friendship that goes down so easy that it's almost suspect, as though it were flung out of 1996 and gifted to our weary 2018 brains.

Based on a true story, "Green Book" recounts a 1962 road trip when a Bronx bred Italian-American Frank Anthony Valerlonga, also known as Tony Lip (Mortensen), was hired to drive a renowned black pianist, Dr. Don Shirley (Ali), to all of his concert engagements across the Deep South.

The two men are obviously mismatched — what would anyone have to learn if they weren't? Tony is a working-class bruiser and world class eater with a



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Mahershala Ali in a scene from "Green Book." Associated Press

wife (Linda Cardellini), two sons, a limited vocabulary, institutional racism, but a generally good heart. Dr. Shirley is a wealthy, erudite dandy, a master of his art, a snob and a loner. He also knows he needs reliable protection on this journey to a segregated south, asks around and finds this Copacabana bouncer Tony Lip is the one for the job de-

spite the prejudices. The constructs will feel familiar and well-worn and surprises are few on this journey toward acceptance and friendship, but the pleasure of this film is in the larger than life characters created by the two leads and their perfectly askew chemistry. Mortensen is almost unrecognizable as Tony, pack-

ing extra pounds and an astute comedic sensibility. He knows just how far to push his caricature without making it cartoonish. When Dr. Shirley says to make sure that there's a Steinway piano at every concert venue, Tony scribbles down "STAINWAY" on a sheet of paper. His doltishness is endearing, not annoying. And Ali, so memorable and

heart-wrenching in "Moonlight," puts his own stamp on a character who feels alienated from his own race and those he's performing for. Although a considerably more staid role than Tony, Ali also manages to have his own fun with Dr. Shirley's seemingly incurable snobbery, wincing at Tony's lack of decorum, or care.

In fact, this film allows everyone to play against their Hollywood-prescribed "type," from the actors to the director, who is perhaps the most surprising revelation of them all.

The Farrelly name conjures up a very specific kind of movie: The big, bawdy comedy that he and his brother made their own and, later, failed to keep fresh. If anything, the charm and success of "Green Book" makes a heck of a case for giving directors more room to work outside of the genres or styles that they became famous for. There is certainly a more serious story to be told out of this road trip, and about Dr. Shirley's extraordinary life. □

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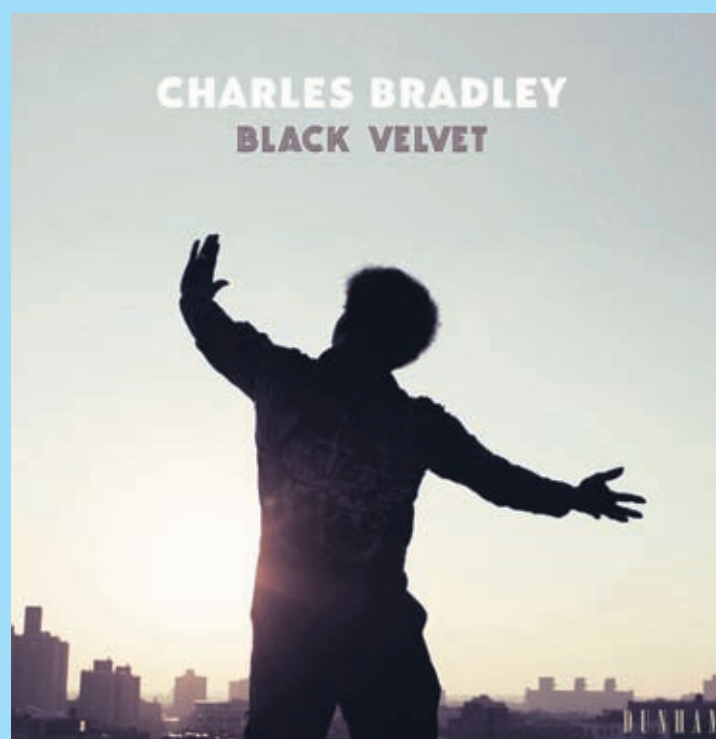
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## 'Black Velvet' is Charles Bradley's last, moving set



This cover image released by Dunham/Daptone Records shows "Black Velvet," a release by Charles Bradley. Associated Press

By **PABLO GORONDI**  
**Associated Press**

Charles Bradley, "Black Velvet" (Dunham/Dap-

tone Records)  
Charles Bradley was past 60 when he released his first album with the extended Daptone Records family, and his death from cancer a year ago robbed soul music of one of its most expressive and exuberant singers and performers. "Black Velvet" collects 10 songs recorded mostly during sessions for his three solo albums, its title coming from Bradley's nickname when fronting a James Brown cover band. It's also an instrumental tune written by producer Thomas Brenneck and his Menahan Street Band, and the only track on the eponymous release not to feature Bradley, who was too weak by then to add vocals. Instead, it's now a poignant tribute. □



## BTS's agency apologizes over band member's A-bomb shirt

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— The agency for K-pop superstars BTS apologized Wednesday for members wearing a T-shirt depicting the explosion of an atomic bomb and a hat with a Nazi emblem.

Japanese TV broadcasters recently canceled or stopped discussing possible appearances by the band in that country after images spread on social media of a singer wearing the shirt. The South Korean boy band ran into more troubles after news broke that another member wore a hat featuring a Nazi symbol in a magazine photo book and band members flew flags with what appeared to be Nazi swastikas during a concert in the past.

"We would like to again offer our sincerest apologies to anyone who has suffered pain, distress and



In this Dec. 2, 2016, file photo, members of South Korean K-Pop music band BTS pose for photos on the red carpet of the 2016 Mnet Asian Music Awards (MAMA) in Hong Kong.

Associated Press

discomfort due to our shortcomings," the band's agency, Big Hit Entertainment, said in a statement.

The T-shirt portrayed an

atomic bombing juxtaposed with the celebration of Korea's 1945 liberation from Japan at the end of the World War II. The Unit-

ed States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki before Tokyo's surrender.

Before its division into North and South Korea after the liberation, the Korean Peninsula was colonized by Japan in 1910-1945. Many in both Koreas still harbor strong resentment of the Japanese colonial masters. But in South Korea, it's extremely rare for anyone to publicly celebrate the atomic bombings.

The bombings killed more than 200,000 people in Japan. Many Koreans were living in Japan at the time, including laborers who were forcibly mobilized by the Japanese, and estimates of the number of Koreans killed in the bombings range from 20,000 to 50,000. South Korean politicians criticized the Japanese broadcasters' decision to cancel BTS appearances, accusing Japan of harboring "self-centered views on history" and letting politics interfere with cultural exchanges. □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

*Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!*



Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit [www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com](http://www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com) or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



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# Amazon HQ favorites: Similar basics, different vibes

By JENNIFER PELTZ  
MATTHEW BARAKAT  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The communities said to be favored to become homes to a pair of big, new East Coast bases for Amazon are both riverfront stretches of major metropolitan areas with ample transportation and space for workers.

But there are plenty of differences between New York's Long Island City and Crystal City in northern Virginia.

Set within eyeshot of the nation's capital, Crystal City is a thicket of 1980s-era office towers trying to plug into new economic energy after thousands of federal jobs moved elsewhere.

Rapidly growing Long Island City is an old manufacturing area already being reinvented as a hub for 21st-century industry, creativity and urbane living. Seattle-based Amazon, which set out last year to situate one additional headquarters but now may reportedly open two, has declined to comment on its plans. But people familiar with the talks said this week that Long Island City and Crystal City have emerged as front runners for the "HQ2" project and its total of 50,000 jobs.

A look at two communities said to be at the top of Amazon's list.

## LONG ISLAND CITY

It's already the fastest-developing neighborhood in the nation's most populous city, and Amazon could pump up the volume in this buzzy part of Queens.

If chosen, the neighborhood stands to burnish New York City's reputation as a tech capital. Landing Amazon would also cement Long Island City's transformation from a faded manufacturing zone to a vibrant, of-the-moment enclave of waterfront skyscrapers, modernized warehouses and artsy-tech ambience across the East River from midtown Manhattan.

"I joke that we're experiencing explosive growth 30 years in the making," says Elizabeth Lusskin, president of the Long Island City Part-



In this Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018, photo, traffic moves along 44th Drive in Long Island City, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018, in the Queens borough of New York.

Associated Press

nership, a neighborhood development group.

But Long Island City also has been straining to handle its growth.

Days before the potential Amazon news emerged, the city announced a \$180 million plan to address Long Island City's packed schools, street design and a sewage system that groans in heavy rain. But those projects will just catch up with current needs, says area City Councilman Jimmy van Bramer.

"I know that there are a lot of people cheerleading for

this, but HQ2 has to work for Queens and the people of Queens. It can't just be good for Amazon," says van Bramer, a Democrat.

Once a bustling factory and freight-moving area, Long Island City saw many of its plants and warehouses closed as manufacturing shriveled in New York City.

The neighborhood's rebirth began in the 1980s, when officials broached redeveloping a swath of the waterfront, while artists were drawn by warehouse spaces, affordable rents and a building that is now

the MoMA PS1 museum. Silvercup Studios — where such TV shows as "Sex and the City," "30 Rock" and "The Sopranos" have been filmed — opened in 1983.

Long Island City gained a new commercial stature, and the start of a high-rise skyline, when the banking giant now called Citi opened an office tower there in 1989. But the area's growth lately has been driven by residential building.

Some 9,150 new apartments and homes have been built since 2010, more

than in any other New York City neighborhood, according to the city Planning Department. Thousands more units are in the works. New York has striven for nearly a decade to position itself as a tech hotspot. Venture capitalists poured \$5.8 billion into New York-area startups last quarter, more than any other region except the San Francisco area, according to the consulting and accounting firm PwC. Established tech giants, including Google and Facebook, have been expanding their New York footprints.

Still, landing HQ2 would represent "incredible validation of just how far New York has come," says Jonathan Bowles, executive director of the Center for an Urban Future think tank.

Waiting for a subway, Long Island City community board chairwoman Denise Keehan-Smith could envision Amazon benefiting the neighborhood.

"But I think we have to be careful about it," she said.

## CRYSTAL CITY

If any place in America can absorb 25,000 Amazon jobs without disruption, it may well be Crystal City, Virginia, where nearly that many jobs have vanished over the last 15 years.

The neighborhood in Arlington County is bounded by the Potomac River and the nation's capital on one side, by the Pentagon on another and Reagan National Airport on a third.

Despite its prime location and abundant transportation options, the neighborhood has been hit by a massive outflow of jobs.

The Patent and Trademark Office began moving more than 7,000 jobs out of Crystal City in 2003. In 2005, the Defense Department announced plans to move roughly 17,000 jobs elsewhere as part of a base realignment.

Arlington County has worked hard to bring in new employers, and had some success.

The Public Broadcasting Service moved its headquarters to Crystal City in 2006. □



In this Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018, photo, the Long Island City waterfront and skyline are shown in the Queens borough of New York. One of the areas that Amazon is considering for a headquarters is Long Island City.

Associated Press